BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) Friday from: some superir of its relations with larged citing police violence at a December peace murch in Jerusalem, the situation in the occupied territories and the impures in the Militari posco process. Abel Matutes, the EC Commissioner for Mediterymean affairs, has postpound a mid-March visit to large, the EC Executive Commissioner and Alexander Commissioner for Mediterymean affairs, has postpound a mid-March visit to large, the EC Executive Commissioner and Alexander Commissioner and Alexander Commissioner and Alexander Commissioner and Commissi postposes it min-starces want to names, me for resource Commu-ation said. Also postposed are a seminar in kernel in March on the EC single market and are EC-formel scientific cooperation seeding in April, it added.



Lebanon panel presses for summit

ABU DHARI (AP) — Algeria's foreign minister, Ahmad Ghozali, pressed Priday for support for an emergency Arab summit to support the elected Lebunese government. Minister Ahmad Ghozali, whose country is a member of the three-member panel working for a Lebunese settlement on behalf of the Arab League, was quoted by the official Endrates news agency WAM as saying the panel had presented a report on Lebunon urging Arab leaders to meet in an emergency sension. Asked whether he expected the summit this menth as has been reported, Ghozali said, "this depends on the summer of Arab leaders to the committee's report," adding "we are awaiting reaction from the Arab leaders." The panel, grouping Algeria, Sandi Arabia and Morocco, found it useful to present a report on the committee achievements and make proposals to implement the remaining points of the Taif agreement, he said. points of the Tail agreement, he said.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1990, RAJAB 15, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Sandi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Prises could Youth form union new committee of the prises of the prises

private to 200 youth representing values of the major index a meeting in Amman Friday and new committee to 25 youth representing values of the major index a meeting in Amman Friday and new committee to prepare for the supply of in founding conference of the "Iorsupply of a founding conference of the "lorenergy of a founding conference of the "lorre were de dan Democratic Youth Union ould and to March 16. According to Al ould apply it on March 16. According to Ai ree said to will "prepare drafts, documents lays, meaning ulations so as to present them to 1 Romana it get recognition and licence to lears of to meaning the march in the Ministry of Youth in order to lears of to meaning the m lears of the operate publicly. The committee ntral control will furthermore contact all lordanian youth institutions to expand the basis of popular parti-

ated his opposite Sayen according his East appeal to Soviets AMMAN (Petra) - Palestine Senior banks, National Council (PNC) Speaker ie only alterns Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh has lation or higher leadership would rescind or said there was reeze the decision related to said there we immigration of Soviet Jews to

d Economic Israeli conflict has not been set-Haussmann, Israell community insistence that the a three-stop c Soviet decision to allow Jewish reaching univ immigration to Palestine will reaust now be a flect unsatisfactorily on the Arab-with cash to a Soviet relations," Saych said union, he sai Thursday while delivering a memorandum to the Soviet poliad of West Getical attache in Amman on behalf. Bank Associate of the Bait Al Maqdes general

er, said in my Islamic conference bureau. "Jewav that a balle ish immigration to Jerusalem and would dema Palestine threatens the Palestiis of money - man cause, the intifada, and even light sums in hi the fate of the Palestinian people at a time when a number of first ians like le arrivals (of immigrants) has ay they know joined the Israeli army," Saych

t. faced with its said. e in the East ranks rushing a Soviet ri quickly, vill present the leader oposal to East innister Hans

evernment son but the only a more ::tes count agrati eared to simple reforms

if that were many MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet source sait President Mikhail S. Gorbachev that." pledged Friday to press on with an reacted butted the sweeping limits on or immediat Communist Party power he

anion by supposhed through the leadership ad no objective days ago.

If it is the west achieved everything he had set out to do at a through the leadership. out to do at a three-day meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee in which the leadership approved his proposal to and the party's legal monopoly on

> "Once we have solidified this phase, we will move on," Gorpachev said before heading into a neeting Friday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is n Moscow for talks on arms eduction proposals.

A Soviet adviser, meanwhile warned in an interview with the official TASS news agency that he Communist Party must reform or lose power to the opposents it has agreed to legali The comments by economist Nikolai Petrakov were the first in which a top official raised the possibility that the Communist Party might actually be in danger

of losing its ruling position. Gorbachev gave a guarded inswer when asked by reporters f he would run for president if he country creates a new, stroner office with the president hosen in a contested election.

"Let's wait and see," he said. Desite Gorbachev's obvious confidence, a catalogue of grieances against Soviet officials Frilay showed the party in disarray and suggested that this week's eforms may not have been radic-

il enough. Soviet Television quoted a nember of a miners' delegation, who attended the plenum, as aying he was shocked by some of

ne participants. "My first impression was that I ", smo an old neonle's home."

aid the miner. Viktor Lomin.

Quic cipation. The conferces called for reactivating all youth "to formulate the democratic stage which concerns all citizens." They also concerns an disease.

all democratic youth.

injuring two guards.
"They were forced to return the fire, killing him in-stantly," the statement said. It was the first such attempted attack since Muslim hard-timers killed President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in October 1961.

CAURO (Agencies) - An

armed tecanger was shot dead when he crashed his car into

President Homi Muberak's

efficial residence Friday and

wounded two security guards, the Egyptism interior ministry

The ministry statement, carried by the Middle East News Agency, said 17-year-old Adbam Mohammad

Halez stormed security gates at the palace and fired a pistal

Maharak is currently in the southern Egyptian town of Aswan where he is due to imagurate a fund-raising ceremony Monday for the re-surrection of the aucient Library of Alexandria.

Teenager shot dead

after shooting at

Mubarak residence

A traffic peliceman on duty at Mubarak's house in the fashionable Heliopolis district earlier said unidentified gunmen shot at the residence

from a speeding car.
"Guards said the young men was in an abnormal state and appeared to lose his be-lance while shooting at the guards," the ministry statement said.

According to the traffic policemen quoted by Reuters, "we heard firing, four or five "We were told it was un

identified peole in a car who shot at the palace, apparently, they got away," he added. He said police were immediately told to divert traffic and to seal the main road leading to the residence. Several checkpoints manned by police armed with se-guns were set up. Presidential guards declined comment and told reporters who drove to the area to leave humediately.

Hafex's mother said her son was furious when he left the house after a family quarrel, the agency reported.

"He threatened to cause a

catastrophe if his demands were not met," it quoted her as saying. Details of his demands were

not given.

MENA meanwhile said

Muharak initiated a telephone call from Aswan to Libyan leader Muammar

The two leaders discussed some issues of mutual interests, the agency said with-

Gorbachev proposes troop cuts to 195,000

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed Friday that the United States and the Soviet Union cut their troop strength in Europe to 195,000 each, excluding Soviet territory, the Soviet news agency TASS reported.

Gorbachev's proposal, made at talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, accepted figures offered by President George Bush last month but apparently cted the idea that an extra 30,000 U.S. troops could be stanoned outside Central Europe.

Bush proposed last month that each superpower should retain 195,000 men in Central Europe but that the United States could keep another 30,000 in Britain, Italy, Greece and Turkey without a matching Soviet deployment. Bush made his proposal Thurs-

day at the Vienna talks between NATO and the Warsaw Pact on reducing non-nuclear forces in Europe.

TASS quoted Gorbachev as saying that if the 195,000 figure was unacceptable, the Soviet Un-ion proposed a ceiling of 225,000 troops each in Europe, excluding Soviet territory.

not ready to accept that the United States should keep more troops in Western Europe than the Soviet Union had in Eastern Europe.

The Soviet Union has about 575,000 troops in Eastern Europe and the United States some 305,000 in Western Europe, according to Western figures.

TASS said Baker promised to reply before leaving Moscow

Until this week, NATO's offer in Vienna had been for 275,000 troops for each superpower while the Warsaw Pact proposal was for

Gorbachev said the Soviet Union was dropping its demand for a ceiling on NATO and Warsaw Paet forces in Europe of 1,350,000 troops on each side.

Baker and senior aides were in their third day of talks with Kremlin leaders on arms control and other issues in advance of an expected superpower summit this

Soviet Foreign Minister Ednard Shevardnadze said "dis-

cussion of the disarmament problem is proceeding very well." Gorbachev's proposals Skirmishes continue despite Beirut truce

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival forces skirmished with machine guns in embattled districts of east Beirut Friday as civilians sprinted to

safety in the city's western sector.

Police said three people were killed by sniper fire as they tried to escape the low-income residential district of 'Ain Rummaneh around noon (1000 GMT).

A security committee grouping representatives of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia and renegade General Michel Aoun failed to convene as scheduled at noon because its members could not reach the seat of Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir in Bkirki, north of

A Lebanese Forces spokesman said the boat which was to carry the militia's representatives from the seaside war council headquarters at east Beirut's Karantina district to Jounieh, north of the

capital, came under shellfire. Two shells were fired and fell in the water near the boat. The

boat didn't sail," said the spokes-man who refused to be named. Aoun's troops control the road north of Beirut which links Geagea's militia with its main bases in Jounich and the rest of the Christian enclave, so the mili-

tia commutes by sea. Earlier in the day, police said rescuent removed the bullet-riddled corpses of 42 victims from east Beingt districts that had witnessed most of the savage By police count, the casualty toll stood at 418 killed and 1,680 wounded in the worst intra-Christian conflict of the 15-year

Hundreds of bullet-riddled cars, many with smashed windscreens and loaded down with possessions strapped on rooftops, headed out of the Christian en-

clave Friday.

Adding to the tension, militias, backed up by tanks and rocket launchers, were occupying posi-tions in mountains along the enclave's southeast frontier. Aoun's forces and the

Lebanese militia announced a peace pact Thursday after other militia units began deploying on the enclave's frontiers.

Official sources said it was possible that west Beirut-based President Elias Hrawi — himself a Maronite Christian - might send his troops into the enclave if there was a major outbreak of

The Lebanese Forces brought more men and military vehicles and erected roadblocks and barricades near the coastal highway tunnel at Dbaych 10 kilometres north of Beirut, witnesses said. They saw militiamen planting

mines around the tunnel, which links east Beirut to the north of the enclave, to prevent Aoun's tanks from advancing.

Militiamen withdrew to the tunnel Tuesday when Aoun's troops gained control of Dbaych hills and barracks

Egypt said to have. caught bus assailant

CAIRO (AP) - Police have arrested one of the two assailants who attacked an Israeli bus with machine gons and hand grenades and killed nine Israelis, the stateowned newspaper Al-Akhbar said Friday.

The newspaper did not identify the arrested toan by name or conference would be held "in a few days" to announce the findings of the police.

"Al Akhbar has learned that the interior ministry's security apparatus has arrested the terrorist who participated with his partner in the attack on the Israeli tourist bus," the newspaper said in its main front-page story without any attribution.

On Thursday, Al Akhbar also said one of the assailants had been arrested. But it was unclear it referred to one of the gummen or the Palestinan driver of the bus, who has been detained and questioned about a possible connection with the attack.

Police have said the attack was planned outside of Egypt and a Palestinian connection is being

Investigators have viewed videotape shot during the ambush, Al Akhbar reported Thursday. The tape's owner said it showed the faces of the

An spokesman for the interior ministry, which is in charge of the investigation, has refused any comment on the newspaper's re-

Leading Al Ahram newspaper, in its early Friday edition, editorially attacked Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon for saying Egypt

was responsible for the attack on "Sharon is the first to know that he is at the head of those who are responsible for the violence

and extremism that are spread in the region... "He is the first to realise that

the seed of violence was sown by him and those hawks and extremists like him," the editorial said. But at the same time, Al Ahram's editor Ibrahim Nafea attacked the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for issuing a condemnation of the ambush which he called "weak and absolately incompatible with the magnitude and borror of the accident.

Butros Ghali, a leading Egyptian official appealed Thursday for Israelis to continue visiting his country despite the attack, saying tourism was necessary for deepening relations.

Ghali, who is minister of state for foreign affairs, also called for "a new peace process" to encourage moderate voices in both the Arab and Israeli camps.

He made the remarks in an interview from Cairo broadcast on Israel Radio.

MOON ECLIPSE: A total eclipse of the at 7:86 p.m. and ended (see photos left and right) moon was observed in Jordan as well as other Arab countries Friday evening. The eclipse began at about 10:00 p.m. Troops kill Palestinian as

uprising enters 27th month

(Agencies) - Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian youth during clashes Friday as residents of the occupied territories went on strike to mark the 27th month of the uprising, residents said. Hospital staff said Abdul Kad-

er Ahmad Ikmail, 19, from the northern West Bank village of Qabatya was shot in the abdomen and died shortly after his arrival at Jenin hospital. Palestinians said the man was

standing on a building when soldiers, firing at a crowd of stonethrowing Palestinians, shot him. Hospital staff said two other residents were brought in with gunshot wounds. At least 621 Palestinians have

been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers since the beginning of the uprising. Unknown assailants have killed 179 Arabs, most of whom were suspected of being collaborators, and 44 Jews have

The killing took place as 1.75 Bank and Gaza Strip observed a general strike, shunning work and private visits.

The strike, a monthly event marking the day the uprising began in December 1987, was called for in a secret leaflet issued by the Unified Leadership of the Up-

Residents in the West Bank village of Burin, near Nablus; sam Abn Sharif said.

said Israeli settlers smashed the windows of seven cars and fired shots at them Thursday night. They said they had filed a

complaint with police in Nablus. In the West Bank village of Karawat Bani Zaid, north of Jerusalem, some 100 Palestinians, mostly young men, demonstrated to mark the eighth anniversary of the re-establishment of the Palestine Communist

Two Palestinians have been killed and at least 87 wounded, most in Rafah town and refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in the last three days. Residents link the tensions to last week's attack on a bus in Egypt in which nine Israelis and two Egyptians were killed.

Egyptian security sources said the bus driver and the driver of the getaway car were Palestinians originally from Rafah, which straddles the Egyptian border. Rafah is a frequent flashpoint of

In Tunis, a Palestine Liberation On misation (PLO) spokes man called for international intervention to stop Israeli troops shooting schoolchildren in Rafah.

We call on the international community, U.N. bodies and human rights organisation to inter-vene immediately to stop the barbaric acts of aggression being committed by the Israeli occupation authorities in Rafah," Bas-

"Israeli forces are continuing to open fire deliberately at random on Palestinians in this besieged town," he added.

Some 2,000 residents of Rafah refugee camp held a march Thursday to mourn a 17-year-old shot dead on Wednesday during clashes between troops and pro-In its latest effort to quell the

uprising, the Israeli army has introduced a jeep-mounted gravel thrower that spews out 600 egg-sized rocks a minute, Israel Radio said Thursday. In a related development, a

military source said the army will increase bail for Palestinian stone-throwers under the age of 15 from 1,500 shekels (\$750) to 5,000 shekels (\$2,500). The new gravel thrower is the latest addition to the army's

growing anti-uprising arsenal that

also includes tear-gas and various types of rubber, plastic and metal A military source said darent of Palestinian stone-throwers under the age of 15 will now be

required to post bail of 5,000 shekels (\$2,500).

The source said the money will be returned with interest if the child does not repeat the offense

cial said. within one year of his arrest. The average Palestinian workers earns 600 to 800 shekels (\$300 to \$400) per month.

King visits **Baghdad**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday paid a brief visit to Baghdad where he met with President Saddam Hussein for a discussion on new developments in the Arab and international arenas and their im-

pact on the Arab World. King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Japanese minister: Soviet influx an obstacle to peace

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Japanese official Friday described the im-migration of Soviet Jews to the Israeli-occupied territories as an impediment to the Middle East peace process and said his country was concerned over the issue. Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Awada told re-

porters that his country was concerned over the question of settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and that "such a practice is bound to have a negative effect on the peace process in the Middle East."

Awada was speaking to reporters upon his arrival Friday on a three day visit to the Kingdom. He will exchange views with senior Jordanian officials "on political matters and new issues in the region," a Japanese embassy official told the Jordan Times.

"Awada will not be discussing relations but the latest developments in the Middle East region," the embassy official said. Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel will be "one of the main topics to be discussed," the offi-

The Japanese deputy foreign minister will also endeavour to "familiarise himself with this region," he added.

U.N. chief closely monitoring Soviet emigration

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) - Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is closely monitoring Soviet Jewish immigration to the Israli-occupied territories and has cited Security Council

opposition to such settlements. Arab diplomats said the problem of settlements would be raised in various capitals and could become an issue in the Security Council.

The secretary-general, in a statement made by his spokesman Thursday, said he was monitoring the situation in light of protests by Arabs that the influx of Soviet Jewish settlers is a potential threat to regional secur-

ity and to the Middle East peace process. Some are expected to move to the occupied territories. François Giuliani, the secretary-general's spokesman, told reporters that the U.N. chief was

nindful that the Security Council

in 1980 adopted a resolution de-

mned the augmented settlements. Clovis Maksoud, U.N. ambassador of the Arab League, said last week that Washington should caution Israel against seeking a

ploring the settlement policy in

The Arab League has conde-

the territories.

"big Israel" in the occupied territories to accommodate a "big immigration" from the Soviet U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletrean to Tunisia has held talks on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel with high-ranking offi-

cials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab League, sources in the Tunisian capital reported Friday. Pelletrean met with PLO offi-

cial Hakim Balawi and with Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi as both organisations stepped up the campaign to choke the

The Palestinian news agency

Thursday between Pelletrean and Balawi covered "the gravity and the repercussions of the migration of Soviet Jews and their implantation in the occupied

Palestinian territories." The WAFA communique did not say whether Pelletreau and Balawi reached any agreement. A Soviet spokesman said Thursday the United States had told Moscow it would accept up

to 20,000 more Soviet emigrants a year as refugees.

The U.S. side informed us they are raising their quota... this year, to approximately 60,000 or 70,000, and of these 50,000 (will be) Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov

told a news conference. On Wednesday, the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Con-

ference accused both superpow-

WAFA reported that the talks their homes by allowing mass Soviet Jewish emigration to

> A senior aide of PLO leader Yasser Arafat was quoted Friday as warning that the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into Israel might encourage the Jewish state to invade Jordan as part of its endeavour to create "greater

Israel."

Arafat advisor Bassam Abu Sharif also warned that Israel would force Palestinians out of the occupied territories to make way for the influx.

"We cannot exclude the possibility of Israel invading Jordan to annex it to the so-called greater Israel," said Bassam Abu Sharif to the Kuwaiti daily Al Anbaa

The Soviet Jewish immigration will form a new army that helps Israel to realise the expansion dreams of the Israeli prime minister," he said.

ers of driving Palestinians from Mandela hold strategy session

UDF leaders, CAPE TOWN, South Africa (Agencies) — Twety-two senior anti-apartheid leaders held political consultations Friday with Nelson Mandela in what they hoped was the last such strategy session before he is freed.

The delegation — the largest yet to see Mandela at his house at Victor Verster prison farm included most members of the executive committee of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a nationwide anti-apartheid coali-

On Feb. 2, in a speech that opened a new era in South African politics, President F.W. de Klerk lifted restrictions on the front and other internal opposition groups, ended a 30-year ban on Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), and pledged to free Mandela soon.

In parliament, de Klerk for the first time responded publicly to accusations from the right-wing

Conservative Party that he had capitulated to the black majority. The conservatives "will plunge this country into racial war," de Klerk, defending himself and his National Party in a no-confi-dence debate. "The National Party talks of renewal and courage,

aggression. De Klerk said his own party "will still be here 10 to 20 years from now, looking after the interests of its people and cooperating with the leaders of other

and they talk of racism and

UDF leader Azar Cachalia said the delegation which met Mandela would give details of the meeting later Friday.

UDF spokesman Murphy Morobe said before entering the prison that the group, including Albertina Sisuln, wife of Mandela's chief lieutenant Walter Sisuin, would brief him on developments in the anti-apartheid move-

It is not known when Mandela, 71, will leave prison, but government sources have said it should be within seven to 10 days.

A friend and former Robben Island cellmate who visited Man-dela Thursday told a Cape Town newspaper the ANC leader had vowed to defy security laws if released under emergency rule. Eddic Daniels said Mandela wanted the three-year-old emergency rule ended and all political prisoners freed before he would begin talks with the government on a shared future for

"He is committed to the destruction of apartheid. He says be will break the country's laws and continue with his struggle if his two conditions are not met,"

blacks and whites in South

Daniels told the Argus. Mandela's demands backed those listed by ANC foreign

affairs spokesman Thabo Mbeki in an unprecedented debate Thurs-day with Foreign Minister Pik

Botha. Linked by satellite from London to Cape Town, where American ABC Television's Nightline programme was recorded for screening Friday, Mbeki and Botha seemed to agree on the

basis for talks. It was the first direct encounter between a South African government minister and an exiled lead-

er of the ANC. In two important concessions, Botha acknowledged Pretoria was wrong to outlaw the ANC in 1960 and admitted the movement has effectively suspended its

guerrilla war. "I think years ago we should have talked to the ANC when they wanted to. I believe they should never have resorted to violence, but that is in the past,".

Workers believe warning signs ignored

66 workers perish in Turkish mine disaster

MERZIFON, Turkey (R) — Turkish coal miners said they believed warning signs were ignored before an explosion and fired ripped through an under-ground chamber, killing 66 of their colleagues.

"On the day of the explosion there was excessive heat in the mine. We also had a tip-off that there was excessive gas." Osman Soylu, whose shift ended only hours before Wednesdy's hlast, said late Thursday.

Officials at northern Turkey's Yeniceltek Legnite Mine said fire was still raging in a chamber 350 metre below the surface where 58 miners were entombed.

"The compartment is closed and no air is going in or out. The area of the explosion is 60 metres by 150 metres," Celalettin Cakir, general manager of the mine, told Reuters.

Cakir said it could take up to six months to reopen the mine near the Black Sea mountain town of Merzifon following the blast which he believed was caused by a methane build up. The prosecutor will determined the guilty. He is interrogate engineers and other senior

technical people," he said.
Officials said 10 miners had been dragged to the surface throughout the mine's main shaft but that all but two were dead. It was the worst pit disaster in Turkey since 1983 when an explosion killed at least 100 miners in the main coal mining area of Zonguldak, west of Merzifon.

Trade union leaders and workers have been sharply critical of the latest accident, with Sevket Yilmas, head of the main Turk-Is workers confederation, describ-

ing it as "murder".

It was the third reported death blast at the mine which opened in 1955. Sixty-seven miners were killed in a similar explosion in 1965 and 14 died in the pit in

Prime Minister Yildirim Akbubut and Labour Minister Imren day and President Turgut Ozal pledged help for the families of

the bereaved. Turk-Is urged miners Friday to boycott work at all mines to protest the coal pit disaster. "We propose to the two (major) mining unions that they stop

production to protest the lack of job safety measures in the sector which makes mass murders of accidents," said the statement by the Turk-Is confederation with over 1.5 million members.

The Turk-Is statement called on the government to bring out the bodies at whetever cost even if it meant ending all mining The Turk-Is statement said it

plement the hoycott if they accepted the proposal. The Turkiye Maden-Is Union which represents the Yeniceltek miners and Genel Maden-Is Un-

would support the unions to im-

ion together group some 110,000 of Turkey's 140,000 mine workers.

Israeli children handed him flowers and olive branches as he spoke to journalists and supporters, including at least one parliamentarian, in a downpour outside

prison.'

Abie

freed

Nathan

from jail

KFAR SABA, Israel (R) — Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan was freed from prison

Friday saying he was more deter-

mined than ever to talk to Arab

leaders and the Palestine Libera-

Nathan, a popular radio broad-

caster, served four months for

breaking a 1986 law barring con-

tacts with what Israel brands "ter-

rorist" groups, including the PLO. He met PLO leader Yasser

"I am more determined than

before. No fences will close me

down," he told reporters outside

Eyal Prison north of Tel Aviv.

Arafat, but any Arab leader who

wants to talk peace. Whenever an

Arah leader talks peace and

stretches out his hand, I will grab

it," Nathan said. "I don't mind

spending the rest of life in

"I am ready to meet not only

tion Organisation (PLO).

Arafat in Tunis in 1988.

Nathan, the fifth Israeli convicted of breaking the anti-terrorism law, was originally jailed for six months but prison authorities reduced the sentence for good hehaviour.

During his term at the mininum security prison, Nathan was allowed visitors and a number of

Born in Iran and raised in India before immigrating to Israel,. Nathan flew two celebrated peace missions to Egypt in a private plane in 1966 and 1967. He said he would continue his

campaign to have the anti-terrorism law repealed because he considered it an obstacle to peace. "How can it be that throughout the world people talk and we

don't. All enemies around the world talk, while we are the only ones who still have not overcome this, and there won't be any path to a solution," he told Israel Army Radio.

Nathan accused Israel of hypocrisy over the law, saying the government was holding indirect peace talks with the PLO.

Khamenei upholds Rushdie's death sentence

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader said Friday that the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's order calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie must be carried out, Tehran

Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying in a sermon Friday that Khomeini's fatwa, or religious decree, "about the writer of the blasphemous book, the Satanic Verses is still valid and must be implemented."

In a related development, nine Iranians deported from Britain arrived in Tehran Friday.

The Indian-born Britain author, in hiding since Khomeini issued the decree Feb. 14 last year, said this week he considered appearing in public to deliver a lecture on censorship, but had been dissuaded by his police

In interviews with the British Independent newspaper and Newsweek magazine, Rushdie

said he regretted the pain the book had called but said he stood by it. He said he was pressing for-

a paperback edition.

Muslim fundamentalists, who consider the book hlasphemous for its irreverent treatment of the Prophet Muhammad reacted violently to the book after its publication in 1988.

But the controversy snowballed after Khomeini issued the death decree and several Iranian leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on Rushdie's head.

Britain, along with about 12 Western allies, recalled their ambassadors from Tehran to protest the fatwa. All the EC countries resumed ties with Iran, but Tehran severed relations with London, accusing it of leading a pressure campaign against Khomeini to revoke the death

In Tehran Friday, an Iranian television journalist deported along with an Iran Air official and seven students, said in a radio

dence that the expulsions came near the anniversary of Khomeini's death decree.

the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, identified by the radio only as Keivanara, told Tehran Radio "the expulsion of the students was a political action taken on the anniversary of the death order against Salman Rushdie '

Britain announced on Feb. 1 that the nine had to be out within a week for reasons of national security. It did not eleboarate, but similar expulsions in the past have been linked to the Rushdie death decree. Keivanara said that he was

Office last week that he had to leave due to his contacts with organisations that support Iran. He called the accusation groundless, saying "I was the holder of a valid press card, and as such was entitled to cover all

informed by the British Home

interview that it was no coinci- issues of interest to my govern

In a 7,000-word essay pubhomeim's death decree. Sished in the indpendent news-The London Bureau chief of paper Sunday, Rushdie said his novel was not meant to pain Muslims, but rather to create a literary language for "formedy colonised, still-disadvantaged peoples," those like himself who straddled different cultures -- "a love-song to our mongrela,

Muslim leaders in Britain have rejected Rushdie's olive-branch, and condemned his determina tion to push ahead for publication

of a paperback edition. In his essay defending free speech and calling on moderate Muslims to read the book, Rushdie wrote that "I recognise that many Muslims have been felt shocked and pained too. Perhans a way forward might be found through the mutual recognition of that mutual pain. Let us attempt to believe in each other's good faith."

Prague renews ties with Israel

kia's new reformist government formally resumed full diplomatic relations with Israel Friday, opening a new era of friendship after a 23-year rift.

Foreign Ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia signed the accord at a ceremony in Prague's Cernin Palace witnessed by iournalists.

Czechoslovakia follows Hungary in reversing a Soviet-led decision to break with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Hungary restored ties last September.

The rapprochement, after an unprecedented exchange of delegations between Prague and Tel Aviv, took place barely two months after Czechoslovakia's hardline Communists surrendered their grip on power.

New President Vaclav Havel wants Prague's new friendliness to Israel to forge a role for Czechoslovakia in the Middle East peace process.

He has stressed the new era of warmth would not harm Czechos-

lovakia's traditionally friendly re-

support for Palestinian rights to

self-determination. The two foreign ministers also signed an agreement on cultural, educational and scientific coop-

A spokesman at the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry also predicted flourishing economic links between the two countries. In the past few years of Communist rule, trade languished at a few

Germany admits World

In a separate development,

In a letter to the WJC in New York, Prime Minister Hans Modrow said East Germany recognises its duty "with regard to the survivors of the Jewish people who suffered under Nazi oppres-

East Germany, however, rejected a similar response, saying t was formed in 1949 and therefore did not bear any responsibility for the holocaust.

man news agency (ADN) re-leased the full text of Modrow's statement and said a copy had been sent to the Israeli govern-ment as well as the WJC.

tion on reparations, Modrow noted in the statement that East Germany had fulfilled all its ohligations under the post-World War II accords.

Sharon wants Palestinian deportees excluded from talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's hard-line Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon has blamed Palestimian deportees for a bus attack on Israeli tourists to underline his demand that exiles be excluded

from peace talks. The handlers of the murderers in Egypt were terrorists who were deported from Israel in the past," Sharon said. "I emphasise this point because of the readi-

ness to include deportees and so people will know the connection between deportees and terror." There was no confirmation that Palestinian deportees were behind a gun-and-grenade ambush on an Israeli tour bus near Cairo

Sunday which killed nine Israelis and two Egyptians. Sharon has challenged Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for leadership of their rightwing Likud Party ahead of an anticipated showdown next week over talks

with Palestinians. Sharon with his party allies Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Housing Minister David Levy announced Thursday their platform for Monday's meeting of the Likud Central Committee which steers party

policy. Sharon, Levy and Moda'i will demand Israel put an end to a 27-month-old Palestinian rebellion against Israeli rule in the occupied territories before any dialogue begins.

They will also insist that Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem and deportees be excluded from proposed talks in Cairo on an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories.

Israel's fragile Likud-Labour coalition government could col-lapse if Sharon pushes through new constraints. Labour could call for new elections if there is no quick progress on the talks after the Likud meeting.

Sharon said Thursday night that he believed Israel had already agreed to the participation of one or two Palestinian deportees in a delegation to proposed talks in Cairo.

Speaking to the press club in Tel Aviv, he said two Palestinians deported from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had organised the bloody attack on the Israeli bus but did not actually carry it out,

He did not name the Palestinians but said one was freed in 1985 when Israel swapped more than 1,000 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners for three israeli captives in Lebanon.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algiers shaken by 2nd earth tremor

ALGIERS (R) - The city of Algiers and surrounding areas were shaken by an earth tremor Friday but no damage was reported, the Algerian News Agency (APS) said. The tremor registered 4.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale — powerful enough to cause damage in populated areas. It was felt in Algiers, Blida-and-Tipaza at 0931 GMT, the agency said. It was the second tremor since Feb. 5 when the Algiers area was shaken by a quake registering 4.1 on the Richter Scale. It coincided with a conference held in Tipaza, 60 kilometres west of Algiers, devoted to seismic risks. An earthquake last October in the same area killed 30 people and caused extensive damage.

Alexander's library to rise from ashes

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Debt-burdened Egypt, anxious to recapture some of its past glory, this weekend appeals to the outside world for help in resurrecting the higgest library of the ancient world, destroyed by fire more than 2,000 years ago. How to raise \$160 million to pay for the Alexandria Library is a question Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will put to an international conference in this Nile-side town. Personalities and leaders including French President Francois Mitterrand, Princess Caroline of Monaco and Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan-Al Nabayan of the United Arab Emirates are expected to join Mubarak. They are to discuss fund-raising for a new library near the original site in Alexandria built by Alexander the Great in 332 B.Q. The Alexandria Library was the biggest in the ancient world, drawing in scholars from around the Mediterranean to consult its manuscripts and papyrus scrolls. The pre-Christian, pre-Islamic library accumulated on one site the world's biggest collection of knowledge on astrology, mathematics, medicine and philosophy. A fire destroyed much of the library in 48 B.C. as Julius Ceasar's legions sacked Alexandria.

Ethiopia, rebels agree on talks

ADDIS ABABA (R) - Ethiopia said Friday it that agreed to hold preliminary peace talks in Sanaa with a minor rebel group fighting for independence in the northern province of Entrea. Deputy Prime Minister Ashagre Yigletu was quoted by the Ethiopian news agency (ENA) as saying he had held talks with government officials in North Yemen this week on the planned talks with the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF). He said Ethiopia was prepared to start the talks in Sanaa by the middle of this month but an exact date would not be set until North Yemen had spoken to both sides. The ELF launched the struggle for independence in Eritrea, a former Italian colony on the Red Sea cost, in 1961. In 1970 it split into the ELF and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), now the major rebels force in Eritrea. The government has already begun talks with the EPLF.

Khamenei pardons 178 prisoners

NICOSIA (AP) - Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamener granted amnesty to 178 prisoners to mark the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the official news agency reported Friday. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the prisoners came from 22 cities throughout Iran. "They were serving prison terms upon verdicts of public or Islamic revolutionary courts," said IRNA without specifying the offenses. The state-run radio, also monitored in Cyprus, said the pardons were proposed by Iran's chief justice, Ayatollah Moham-

Turkish consul in Komotini returns home

ANKARA (R) - Turkey's consul in Komotini, who has been declared persona non grata by Greece, returned home with his family, thre days before a deadline set for his departure. Consul family, thre days before a deadline set for his departure. Consur Kemal Gur, after crossing the border by car, told reporters at the Ipsala border gate that the situation in Komotini was "very grave," the semi-official Anatolia News agency reported. The Muslim minority in the region "have their trust shaken in the Greek state and its justice," Anatolia quoted Gur as saying. Gur was ordered to leave for referring to the 200,000-strong Muslim and the control of the con minority as "ethnic brothers" in a petition to authorities in the region recently plagued by ethnic strife. In retaliation Turkey has declared Greece's Istanbul consul general, Elias Klis, persona non grata. He must leave the country Sunday :

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovalations with Arab states or its sion."

million dollars a year.

War II responsibility

East Germany Thursday accepted a share of responsibility for the holocaust and said it would provide "material supto Jewish victims, the port" to Jewish victims, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said in New York.

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It also said East Germany confirms its readiness in a spirit of human solidarity to provide material support to former (vic-tims) of the Nazi regime of Jewish

In 1951, West Germany accepted its responsibility for the holocaust, in which nearly six million Jews were killed from 1933 to 1945. It has since paid billions of dollars in reparations to Israel, Jewish organisations and individual Jewish claimants.

In East Berlin, the East Ger-

Restating East Berlin's posi-

Europe heeds U.S. warning, braces for attack "We're passing on information

LONDON (R) — European govings seriously, adding that securernments are bracing for a possible terrorist attack this weekend after a warning from the United

States. The United States said Thursday it feared terrorists might attack U.S. targets in Western Europe to coincide with Sunday's 11th anniversary of the Islamic

Revolution in Iran. We are taking this warning seriously," Dutch Interior Ministry spokesman Ger Bodewitz said Friday.

Security will be especially tight around U.s. airline counters at European airports, with detailed searches of all passenger baggage likely in many centres.

In December 1988 a bomb

blew apart a Pan-American Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people on board and 11 on the ground shortly after the plane had taken off from Heathrow during a flight from Frankfurt to New York.

"We know of the reports and have ordered the appropriate me-asures to be taken," said a government spokesman in Bonn, without claborating.

In London, a Transport Department spokesman said: "The U.S. announcement does not advise of any threat against civil aviation but we have taken the notice into account." A senior Greek police officer

said Athens took all such warn-

ity was always well-controlled at Greek airports.

However, in Switzerland, Geneva airport officials said they had not yet heard of the State Department announcement. There was no immediate word

spread ticket cancellations following the advisory. Security was also tight Friday around U.S. diplomatic missions

from European airports of wide-

in Europe. The Turkish Foreign Ministry confirmed the U.S. embassy in Istanbul had asked for extra pro-

The State Department warning was relayed to reporters by spokesman Richard Boucher. "We are deeply concerned,"

"We believe it is possible that this attack may be timed to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

He said the department believed the attack take place on or near Sunday.
At the United Nations in New

York, the Iranian mission said the U.S. warning was baseless. "The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the baseless allegation made by the U.S. State Department, and considers them vain attempts to discredit the Islamic Revolution," it said in a It said U.S. authorities knew

the allegations "have no foundation whatsoever in reality.' Boucher said the State Deparment issued a threat advisory in December due to what he called

the high level of activity of pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) operatives in Western Europe. We think that people should exercise caution, observe good security procedures, follow the recommendations of authorities. But we're not issuing a travel

advisory for Western Europe," A senior analyst said the depar-ment's warning might be part of a new sense of cantion after the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

The United States was later criticised for not notifying the public after the U.S. embassy in Finland reportedly received a veiled warning that a bomh would be placed on a Pan Am flight.

"They are now putting every-one on possible notice of a possible attack based on the symbolic date and fact that these organisations are active," said Robert Kupperman of the Washingtonbased Centre fore Strategic and International Studies.

Boucher said he did no thave specific information on the operation or its target or whether it was that we think should be brought to the attention of the public. We're passing on this information, obviously, to our own personnel as well." he said. The U.S. Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA), which supervises airport security and airline safety, would not elaborate in Boucher's remarks and an FAA source said his agency knew of no specific threats. Boncher declined to say

whether the United States had

been in contact with Iranian authorities about the threat, saying:
"I'm not in a position to talk
about or speculate on specific governments being behind this." Gene Mastrangelo, a private security consultant with the firm Business Risks International, said

the first 10 days of February are called the "10 days of dawn" by Iranian loyalists to Khomeini who died last June. He said the period was a moveable "window," a time when Iranian-backed extremists have taken terrorist action to commemorate the Feh.

11 anniversary. Matt Freund, another specialist with the firm, said police have uncovered caches of explosives believed linked to the Hizbollah network in Spain and France and that Hizbollah could be working with European-based terrorist

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PRAYER TIMES

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De le Selle Church Tel. 661757
Terrananta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. in Church Tel. 771751. America Ind 685326. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER lletin supplied by the Department of It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be southwesterly moderate.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 92 per cent, Aqaba 38 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** HUNBERS

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lbn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

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MARKET PRICES

Hot contest in the offing as engineers gear up for Feb. 23 association elections

By Mariant Shahlm Jordan Times Staff Reposter

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AMMAN — A body contested race is in the miking for the leadership of the lorder Engineers' Association, with at least nine, including a woman, vying for the presidency, and another nine candidates for the vice-presidency;

Although only two "blocs" - the traditional "Greens," which exposits pen-Arab and letist political, economic and social platforms, and the "whites," which is identified with Islamist tendencies have taken definite shape ahead of the Feb. 23 election association sources said Friday that a third grouping was in the offing and expected to be announced in the next 48 hours.

The association, one of the leading organisations seen as representing the "voice of edu-cated Jordanians," adopts a system of direct elections to a two-year 10-member representing civil engineering, and one each for architecture, electro-nics, chemical, mechanics and geology. The 10th seat is re-served for "technical eaneers" - those who have a pachelor of science degree in

engineering.
An association source said he expected at least 6,000 members to take part in the elections, reflecting an increase of 1,000 over the figures for the

int election, held in 1988.

Political character

The association, like most other professional unions and organisations, has served as a prominent forum for airing political views and thoughts in the absence of political parties in the Kingdom.

Although many members advocate a ressuessment of the association's role in light of the expected birth of political parties under the proposed National Charter, none of the spokesmen for the bloos said the "political character" should be brought to an end.

Lower House of Parliament

member Leith Shbeilst, president of the association since 1988, is one of those who believes that the role of the association should be reviewed. "When there were no political bodies to speak on behalf of the people, the associatioo med an important political role because it represented such a large number of educated mians and also because there was no one else to voice the people's needs," Shbeilat told the Jordan Times. "Now the association should reassess its priorities and concentrate on professional issues and then on political issues," Shbeilst said in a relephone interview Friday.
According to Shbeilat, who

said he was not seeking reclec-tion, the association "has to raise its standards. Nothing should at this point come above the profession because that is after all our raison d'ette. The

way things stand now, the issues will no longer be one of the people verses the govern-ment; it will be the people verses the people."

Shbeilat, who was supported by both "Oreens" and "Whites" in the 1988 elections and secured 3,300 votes out of the 5,000 votes cast, said he was supporting "White" candidate Ahmad Keilani for president in the Feb. 23 elections.

Three of the nine candidates seeking the presidency are also expected to assume leadership of the blocs in the association. Ismail Brewish is expected to head the Green bloc and Ahmad Keilani will head the White bloc. Saleh Irsheidat is tipped to head the yet unnamed third bloc, described by association members as a "variation of the Greens.

The main differnece between the "Greens and the new entity, according to a source close to the group, will be that it will adopt a "new approach towards implementing the platforms." "The new bloc will deal with

the process of democratisation in the kingdom in a more dynamic and feasible manner," the

Our role will not be any

According to the bloc's presidential candidate, Irsheidat, "we are living in a new era and that era demands a new approach."

different in meaning from the traditional Greens; it will only change in means and bases of approach," Irsheidat told the Jordan Times Friday, "Instead of asking for political freedoms, we will ask for steps to be taken to deal with the issue of unemployment of engineers. The issue is no less political, but the approach must change. Dealing with professional issues and being politically involved are two sides of the same coin as far as we are concerned," he

Keilani, who enjoys Shbeilat's backing, has a list of "priorities" which be believes should be addressed in that order by the association. Topping the list are suggestions to tackle unemployment and to decentralise the decision-making powers of the association.

'Higher awarenss'

Members of the Green bloc concede that professional issues should indeed be the top priority for the association but argue that it should not cease to be a forum for political activity.

"The amount of political awareness that exists in the engineers' and lawyers' associa-

many people in parliament because these people deal with the day-to-day problems in this country," said a Greens activist. "If their political roles were to be brought to an end, it would be tantamount to a catastrophe since these associations embrace all thoughts and colours in the political spectrum,"

Only 8,000 of the 22,000 members of the association are eligible to vote. Many members are outside Jordan, mostly in the Arab Gulf countries, and many others are not up-to-date with payment of their dues to the organisation and thus disqualified from taking part in the elections.

Independent observers estimate that 42 per cent of the members support the Greens and 40 per cent favour the Whites, and see the rest as

Following are the nine seeking the presidency of the asso-ciation: Saleh Irsheidat, Ismail Brewish, Ahmad Keilani, Yusra Barghouti (the sole woman candidate), Abdul Rahman Khader, Tajeddin Nuseibeh, Abdullah Nather, Izziddin A Al Tell, and Ahmad Abu Zeid.

The candidates for the vice presidency are: Rack Kamel, Adnan Badran, Abdullah Hamarneh, Rifki Suboh, Fathi Heiasat, Ziad Dahdal, Jalal Duwani, Fuad Silwadi and Husni Abu Ghaida.

JTV to

increase

French

The unemployment problem in Jordan is seen by many officials and experts as "behavioural" — meaning that Jordanians frown at accepting "low-

level" jobs such as in farming, butcheries, and

Move does not aim at legally employed foreigners, Labour minister explains

Issuance of work permits to be resumed after study

By a Jordan Times

Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour is currently conducting a study on the labour market in Jordan to determine the Kingdom's requirements of foreign workers, especially in the sectors of agriculture, nursing and domestic services where Jordanian substitutes could not be found, Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat said Friday.

Once the study is over, the ministry will resume the issuance of work permits to non-Jordanians whose services are needed in specific areas, the minister was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister was interviewed by Petra on the implications and implementation of a a decision by the ministry to freeze the issuance of work permits as of Feb. 8 until further notice. The decision was announced Wednesday by the ministry, which said the move was part of the government's policy of alleviating the Kingdom's unemployment problem through closer monitoring and controlling of the local labour market and finding Jordanian replacements for foreign workers in

various sectors. Obeidat told Petra Friday that one of the main aims of the move was to climinate the illegal employment of foreign workers by local businesses. He stressed that it would not have any impact on foreigners who have already been issued work permits by the ministry and did not mean that foreign workers would be ordered to leave the country. "It is directed at violators of the law, particular-

ly those employers who employ

quoted as saying sby Petra.

The ministry will continue to cooperate with businesses with a view to finding employment for Jordanians, according to Mansour Al Utum, director of the Employment Office of the Ministry of Labour.

Utum was quoted as saying by Petra that Jordan had enough job opportunities for Jordanians, particularly in non-white collar sec-

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said recently that there were over 80,000 unemployed Jordanians in the country at a time when 175,000 non-Jordanians were employed in the Kingdom's various sectors. In a move designed to discourage the employment of foreign workers, the ministry has introduced annual work permit charges, ranging from JD 50 in the agricultural and nursing sec-tors to JD 100 and JD 300 in

Utum, in statements carried by Petra, called on all Jordanian employers to give priority to Jordanians in employment and give training to prepare them to take over jobs from foreigners.

Maan businessmen's call However, the government businesses in Maan in the south. A meeting organised by local businessmen in Maan Thursday to discuss the ministry decision decided to send cables to Badran and Obeidat urging the government to rescind the move,

meeting, Haitam Al Nasser, own-

will have adverse impacts" on

Mann businesses.

non-Jordanians without obtaining Petra that businessmen in the work permits," the minister was area wanted to help the government in its endeavours to alleviate the unemployment problem, but had been finding little success in their search for Jordanian workers to replace foreigners employed in various sectors.

Mohammad Ali Salameh, owner of a brick-making plant, was quoted as saying by Petra that he had repeatedly advertised in local papers asking for local workers but none had responded, thus forcing him to employ non-Jorda-

Ahmad Khalaf Salah, who operates a gas cylinder business. said he was disappointed to find that Jordanians did not stay more than a few days of work with him and thus had no alternative other than to employ non-Jordanians.

Mohammad Mousa Abu Saleh, a butcher, also gave a similar story. He said he found Jordanians were not interested in working at a butchery and had to look for non-Jordanians to work

Agaba situation

The Aqaba labour department provided 151 job opportunities in January for Jordanians out of a total of 160 applications, director

of the department told Petra. The department withheld 79 move to free the issuance of work work permits foreign nationals permits was criticised by from 11 countries at the expiry of these permits in accordance with regulations which provide for refrainment from renewing work permits if Jordanian substitutes

The department, according to the director, undertook a total of 137 inspection tours to various institutions in Agaba in January Speaking on behalf of the to make sure that regulations related to foreign labourers were er of a Maan confectionary told followed thoroughly.

could be found.

Queen accepts membership in world panel on Alexandria

AMMAN (J.T.) - Her Majesty Queen Noor has accepted the invitation of Mrs. Hoeni Mubarak, the wife of the Egyptian president, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Federico Mayor to serve on the International Commission for the Revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria, whose membership includes

beads of state, several world dignitaries, notable academicians, and a Nobel Prize winner.

The inaugural meeting of the commission will be held in Aswan, Egypt, on Feb. 11-12, under the patronage of President Hosni Muberak and will be attended by the members of the commission and other distingmished guests.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of Parliament will hold its 14th session Saturday to discuss reports of its various committees. During the session, Prime Minister Mudar Badran will present answers to proposals tabled by deputies.

Court to study diplomats' transfer

AMMAN (Petra) - The Higher Court of Justice will Saturday study the case presented by four diplomats who were recently transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Labour and the Court of Civil Service.

Hamdan to attend Thailand conference

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan will participate in an international conference on "Education for All" scheduled to convene in Thailand March 5. The four-day conference will discuss means to bolster international cooperation in education. Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan will lead the Jordanian delegation to the conference.

Hallbuna not for commercial use

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Supply has warned commercial firms against using "Halibuna" dried milk to produce confec-tionaries, ice cream or biscuits. A ministry statement said the product was imported to Jordan solely for use by the domestic sector and should not be used for commercial purposes. The ministry said its warehouses had enough stock of the product.

Iragis release Jordanian drivers

AMMAN (Petra) - Two Jordanian drivers detained in Iraq for violating traffic rules on fast highways have been released, according to a notification received here by the Ministry of Interior from Baghdad. The two were freed after paying fines. Fines for this nature of violations could reach up to ID 5,000.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ A pistic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ☆ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Mea-guich, Mnouchkine, Planchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ☆ An exhibition of pointings by Alia Ammoura, Nabila Hilari and Nawal Abdellah at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation. A plastic art exhibition by Tawliq Ai Sayed at the Goethe Institute.
- An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Ma'ta University. LECTURE
- A A lecture by Dr. Daoud Al Issuwi on "the conservation of threatened wildflowers in Jordan" at the AUB Alement Clab —

FILM

- ☆ An Italian film entitled "Long Live the Lady," shown as part of the European film festival, at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:06 p.m.
- A concert by the French duo Gerard and Manppin accompanied by Kisa Matouk at Yarmouk University at 6:00 p.m.

Writer remembered

By Serene Halase Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A commemorative service was held in honour of prominent Jordanian writer and poet Hosni Fariz, who died Jan. 4 at the age of 83, leaving behind him a great literary logacy. The ceremony Thursday was attended by leading scholars, government officials, parliamentarisms and family members. Born to a poor family in Sait in 1907, Fanz was one of the first people who attended Salt secondary school after which he was given a scholarship by the Ministry of Education in 1927 to pursue further studies at the American

University of Beirut, Upon his return to Jordan after graduation from the AUB, he became a teacher of Arabic literature, history and geography. He was then transferred to a school in Karak, because of his outspoken views, and eventually returned to his old school in Salt to take the headmaster's position. Later, Fariz became the state inspector of exports, "a job I knew absolutely nothing ebout,"

Zaben urges stricter

adherence to standards

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Thursday, Zaben called for closer

Health Mohammad Al Zaben has control of food factories particu-

treatment plants, drinking water, hold monthly meetings to prom-

he said years later, and was pen-sioned in 1952. From 1962 to 1963, he was under-secretary of the Ministry of Education, and in 1988 he became the president of the Union of Jordanian Writers, and remained in that post till his death earlier this year.

Fariz had been credited with many literary works. In 1938, he wrote his first collection of poems "Forms of Love", and in 1954 he wrote another collection entitled and poems.

Fariz's death was a buge loss to stories and novels, publishing articles, lecturing and participatsaid Dr. Nasereddin Al Assad, a former minister of higher educa-

"My Country". In 1986, he added e third collection of epic plays According to leading figures in Jordan's literary movement,

Jordan and to the literary herit-age of this country, which he helped build. He worked for sixty years studying, teaching, organising, translating, writing short ing in conferences and seminars. tion. "Fariz had become a part of a part of Jordan's traditional literary heritage," Assad said.

ceived by Intelsat 5-F-11 satellite through special facilities recently installed at the television station in Amman and the programmes are being offered to Jordan free of charge, according to JTV offi-They said the programmes,

programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tele-

vision (JTV) has started receiving

additional four hours of French

programmes every day directly

beamed from Paris designed to

boost French language prog-

The programmes are being re-

which will also sometimes be sent by airfreight, have prompted JTV to conduct a study of extending the duration of its daily French programme to absorb the additional material Fuad Ben Hilaleh, director of

the French channel of JTV, told a press conference Thursday that Jordan was the first country in the Middle East to be linked to this service but agreements have been drawn up with Egypt and Syria for similar cooperation and contacts were under way with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on similar agreements...

At present, he said, similar French programmes are sent to 24 African countries under special agreements. The arrangement with JTV was made possible with the installation of a separate antenna near the television sta-

directors of health departments in importance of breastfeeding and various governorates and districts educate them on breast cancer. **Europe film festival begins today**

larly dairy plants and bakeries.

ote the standard of health special-

ists and introduce mothers to the

He also, stressed the need to

By Sana Atlych Special to the Jordan Times

stressed the need to abide by

regulations governing wastewater

During a meeting with the

springs, and dams.

AMMAN — Movie-goers and video film addicts who enjoy watching 'non-American' movies once in a while have difficulty in finding European films in Jordan. But now is the time for those addicts to indulge themselves in "foreign" movies

for eight consecutive days. Starting next Saturday, eight member states of the European Community (EC), and the EC delegation in Jordan, are bringing to the Jordanian audience eight different European films to be screened at the Philadelphia Cinema in Jabal Amman.

According to the head of the EC Commission delegation, Christian Falkowski, providing a cross-section of different films from Europe gives Jordanian au-dience an idea of the "best cinematic productions by European directors in the last three years, that are not normally avail-

pean film festival, the third of its rind held in Amman patronised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, reflects "the rich variety of individual national characteristics which, taken as a whole, represents a unique cultural blend" of European culture. . According to the head of the commission, the first and second

film festivals, held in Amman in

1987 and 1989, gained quite a success. He said that because of

Falkowski said that the Euro-

andience demand, some of the the struggle against monotony films were repeated at extra and routine and the Spanish ab-

"Jordan is the only country in the Middle East where these annual film festivals are held. But as a result of the success of the films in Amman, a similar European film festival will now take place in Damascus next month." Falkowski said at a press conference earlier this week.

He said that the screening of European movies was only one manifestation in introducing European culture, especially that Jordanians "love to watch

There is comedy, drama and adventure in the cross-section of films this year, all of which are productions of the late 1980s. The Italian movie reflects a

comic day in the life of a 16-yearold hotel management student who works as a waiter at a grand gala dinner, but prefers to remain The Dutch film is somewhat of

e wild goose chase comedy de-

picting e woman wanted by two

men who search for her when she

and ber small daughter play a disappearing act. From the synopses distributed to the press, the British drama, on the Black Hill, sounds like one of those best seller mini-series seen on TV - a sage of genera-

tions in a Welsh farm from 1895 to 1980. The Belgian drama is about love and loyalty; the Greek about

out gypsie life, the supernatural

and rituals. The French film depicts two young men who adventurously challenge the greatness of the ocean, and the West German movie is about e woman who helps her boyfriend accomplish his dreams by putting him in a position where he cannot back

The eight films, all of which are subtitled in English, are scheduled to start at 8 p.m. on the

following days:
- Feb. 10: "Long Live the Lady" directed by Italian prize winner Ermanno Olmi; - Feb. 11: "The Big Blue" directed by French prize winner Luc Besson;

- Feb. 12: British film "On

the Black Hill" by Weish director Andrew Grieve; - Feb. 13: "Sailors Don't Cry" by Belgian director Marc

Feb. 14: "The Pilot," directed by Swiss-born German Erwin

- Feb. 15: "Birthday Town" directed by Greek prize winner Takis Papayamidis; - Feb. 16: "Bewitched Love"

directed by Spanish prize winner Carlos Saura;
— Feb. 17: "Looking for Eileen" by Dutch director Rudolph

Van Der Berg. Entry to all films are free of

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Floatation vs inflation

THE RECENT decision of the Central Bank to float interest rates in a bid to promote investment, carb inflation and bolster the value of the Jordanian currency is indeed commendable, albeit over due. Yet, after many days on the application of that bold monetary policy the interest rates have not floated high enough to reach even the expected inflationary rate which is conservatively estimated at 13 per cent. This suggests that the floatation process is more artificial than real, for experts would readily concede that interest rates should not be lower than the inflation rate, otherwise they would effectively be negative real interest

Since the Kingdom has started a new phase in all its styles of life, be they political or economic or whatever on the basis of frankness'and realism in dealing with one another, one is at a loss to explain the lack of such avowed features in maintaining interest rates at such a low level where they can never be expected to promote investment or curb inflation or bolster the value of the dinar as projected. Jordan is not the only country nor the last to suffer from high inflation, unemployment and weakening currency. Yet, in all the countries with similar woes the first adjustment made to rectify the course of the country has been to raise interest rates a few points beyond the rate of inflation. As potential Jordanian investors are currently at the mercy of the banks operating in the country, which apparently determine or even fix interest rates in a manner most profitable to them, the Central Bank of Jordan is dutybound to intervene in a manner similar to interventions of other central banks all over the world. The first thing that Jordan's Central Bank is called upon to do is to fix rediscount rate in line with the projected rate of inflation which would serve as a basis for nding between the bank and other commercial banks in Jordan or among commercial banks. The next move could take the form of calculating a commercial interest rate on the basis of the central bank's interest rate. Such a step would create the kind of climate which could promote investment, curb inflation and support the dinar. Once investment is truly encouraged, there would be enough capital generated the country to construct and develop the kind of export-oriented industries as well as labour intensive enterprises that the country is in need of. Then and only then can Jordanians aspire to end their economic and fiscal hardships on a realistic and pragmatic basis.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday lamented the situation in the Arab region and said that while the world is moving towards real economic and political development, the Arab countries are still in disarray and dealing with side issues, unable to deal with matters of real concern to the Arab people in the coming century. The paper said that Europe and the world at large are witnessing real change to the better, as the East-West tension eases and as Europe prepares for unity by the year 1992. The door is now open for real change in government and economic structures and the statesmen of the world are reassessing their priorities in view of the developments and with a view to working out new formulas for the 21st century, said the paper. But, it noted, the Arab countries are still lagging behind, and did not prepare anything for the coming century, involved only in side issues without any real and serious planning for the future. It said that the Arab World tries desperately to deal with the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, the question of river waters flowing to Iraq, Syria and Egypt, the situation in Lebanon and other matters without preparation, planning or joint efforts. The paper urged the Arab leaders to meet at a summit where they can seriously discuss matters of concern to their people and plan for real unity without which there is no future for the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour Arabic daily discussed the situation in Palestine as the uprising there enters the third month of its third year. The paper said that one cannot but express real admiration and total support for the oppressed people trying to resist an aggressive power and all forms of barbaric and criminal actions. The paper expressed regret that violence and oppression being imposed on the Palestinians have not yet aroused the conscience of the free and civilised world. It said that the latest picture of barbaric action is now being exercised against the Palestinian city of Rafah because the driver of a bus that was attacked in Egypt recently resulting in the death of a group of Israelis came from that town. As the atrocities continue, the American president insists on showing his support for the Israeli crimes by demanding that Moscow operate direct flights between Moscow and Palestine to fly Jews who will be settled on Arab land with American money, the paper noted. Instead of exercising its pressure on Israeli leaders to stop brutal practices, the United States is stubbornly following the course of aggression against the Arabs, totally disregarding international principles and human rights.

Sawt Al Shash Arabic daily commented on the situation in Lebanon where the Christians are involved in a fratricidal war. The paper said that as the leaders of the Shi'ite groups are continually fighting each other not on religious ground, the turn now is for the Christians to follow suit and kill one another in a manner that could only satisfy the selfish interests of their leaders. The past years have proved that all conflicts inside Lebanon have nothing to do with religion or faith, and proved also that no foreign country or the Pope can bring an end to the greed of the leaders of factional groups, the paper said. It suggested that the legitimate central power of the president should move to end all Shi ite or Christian fighting and put an end to the Lebanese people's ordeal.

View From Amman

By Kamel S. Abu Jaher

emocracy and National Charter

THE practice of democracy is like its very concept, indivisible: either you have it or you don't. It is from this premise that the future Jordan National Charter should emanate. It should be flexible enough to allow for new developments over time. And, while it should give direction, it must never be allowed to become a straitjacket for the body or the mind, but merely light the way.

I have always been afraid of those who think they have a monopoly over the truth and who speak in absolute terms. For, it is they who, acting under the guise of democracy, kill its very essence, and in the name of creating a philosophy for one or another aspect of life: the economy, education, social transformation... they create yet another pattern, another mould the escape or deviation from which is most difficult.

What we need is a developing set of concepts to help in reaching our goals whether political, economic, or social. A living ideology that is in constant interaction with life, changing as life changes, and not a yoke over our necks making our life more difficult. A forward looking manifesto anticipating the future, its challenges, changes and possibilities and not a totalitarian creed that ties us to a post. Our charter should indeed rest upon and foster our sense of historical values, tradition and mission, again developing out of these an agenda for the future, not fixating itself in the past

The charter should revolve around the major issues dealing with our present and future life. An attempt should be made at deciding certain issues: ideologically, politically, economically and socially. What sort of society do we visualise for ourselves and our children? What are the broad strategic outlines and hopes? What methods are we to pursue to reach these goals?

Above all else we must liberate our mind so that it can roam, speculate, question, seek answers and attempt solutions. All aspects of life should be subject to our scrutiny and questioning. In looking over our past few centuries as contrasted with those of the Western experience, we must realise that Western society broke the syndrome of underdevelopment, ignorance and disease when the mind of the average man was released. We need not repeat the same experience extactly but we do need to look very closely so as to find out why and how they succeeded while we are still grappling with the same questions of centuries ago.

The charter should be an elaboration; an expansion of the lofty principles of democracy and the dignity of man already present in our cultural heritage. Until only two or three decades ago, our people in Jordan and Palestine lived in rural towns, villages, or as nomads. Consultation, a form of de facto democracy, was already one of our main cultural traits. The village elder, the mukhtar, the selectman, consulted with his people on their affairs. The same was true of the sheikh of the tribe in whose diwan, council, the elders of the tribe decided their affairs in consultation with each other. These social institutions, our historical heritage, lost since

the rise of the modern nation state with the conclusion of World War I, should not be ignored. These social legacies can also be supported by the spiritual injunctions of the glorious Koran itself. In one of the verses the Koran exorted that "their" affairs are in consultation among themselves, and in a latter verse there is the order, "consult them" in their affairs.

Now that the international and regional atmosphere seems Now that the international and regional atmosphere seems encouraging, we should take the chance and see to it that a new Jordan can be constructed. Both His Majesty King Hussein, and King Abdullah declared and acted upon their intention to expand the horizons of the participatory system of government. Democracy, while rooted in Greek thought is also part and parcel of the heritage of man. It has been part of the dream of free people throughout the ages. It is a system designed to expand not restrict the horizons of man in his society. It allows for stability and legitimacy, while enturing liberty and participation. Its greatest legitimacy while ensuring liberty and participation. Its greatest advantage is that it allows for the release of individual talent, the individual initiative, to explore new horizons without discarding old values. It is the maintenance of that delicately balanced tension that ensures the survival of the thesis and its anti-thesis at the same time, constantly stirring the mixture and thus allowing for the vitality of life to continue.

Al Mithaq, the charter should give new hope by its intended, or appefully intended mixture of modernity and traditionalism.

Fayoum fundamentalist remains as enigmatic as his supporters

By Myra MacDonald Reuter

FAYOUM, Egypt — At dusk a blind man in long white robes is led by his three sons from his home to the mosque across the

The Egyptian authorities regard Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman — the Muslim theologian accused but acquitted of inciting the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 — as one of the country's most dangerous

He is living under house arrest, cooped up on two floors of a small government-subsidised home in Fayoum, a pretty oasis city southeast of Cairo, with two wives and eight children.

The 52-year-old spiritual leader of the outlawed Al Jamaa Al Islamia is on trial for alleged involvement in street clashes last April, but a court order has freed him pending the verdict. Officially Sheikh Omar can go where he wants, but more than a dozen security guards around his

house turn away visitors. He is allowed out once a day to cross a dusty unpaved street to attend evening prayers at the tiny Sayed Kamel mosque. The guards fend off anyone trying to talk to him on his way there.

The guards point to a sign above the house's door saying it is a nursery school.

"And I am the headmaster of the school," said one man, his face nearly covered by a brown muffler, dark glasses and a black cap, who ordered journalists to leave - so as not to disturb the

Sheikh Omar's only contact with the outside world is the telephone.

to attend the noon prayers on a

He says he is not even allowed

Friday, the most important weekly ceremony for a Muslim.

"You will write that I said that, won't you," he said on the tele-

Sheikh Omar wanted to give a news conference. But journalists ontside his house were told he was out of town and would not talk to women.

He said on the telephone that he was in Fayoum and did want to

Sheikh Omar is as much of an enigma as the fundamentalists who support him, surrounded by so many myths and conflicting information which keeps the truth a mystery.

Dangerous criminal or persecuted blind man, Sheikh Omar shows up the rival views of Egyptians about fundamentalists.

Some think the Islamic militants are plotting the violent overthrow of the state to set up an Iranian-style regime.

Others believe they are the victims of a random repression made possible by Egypt's wideranging emergency laws allowing thousands to be detained without

Fayoum itself yields few answers to those conflicting

In run-down backstreets near Sheikh Omar's house, there are many bearded men and the women are covered from head-

But elsewhere in the predominantly peasant town, women in gaily-coloured clothes with baskets on their heads carry on as the Egyptian fellaheen (peasants) have been doing for centuries, their lives little touched by poli-

to-toe, often in black:

tical changes or upheavals. Old men sit outside drinking tea under the winter sun and talking. A few tourists come to buy baskets and look at Fayoum's

famous water wheels.

hotbed of fundamentalism But only the presence of dozens of soldiers, standing on alert after Friday prayers, gives

any hint of tension. Even today, the fundamentalist movement remains as obscure as it did 10 years ago before the murder of Sadat.

Fragmented into groups, it ranges from the Jamaa, initially a university-based grouping courted by Sadat to offset Communists, to the lihad — whose members killed Sadat — to the Muslim Brotherhood. Only the Brotherhood has gained official tolerance and is allowed to sit in parliament

All offer Islam as the solution to Egypt's problems and are believed to have support in all levels

of society. Their influence is evident in the

To the government, Fayoum is ing the veil and in increasing numbers of people who stop work

to pray five times a day. Many believe that is simply because more Egyptians are turning to religion to find comfort from economic hardship.

Since Sadas's assassination fundamentalists have kept a relative-ly low profile but whether this is because they are weaker or better controlled is impossible to assess.

New Interior Minister Mohammad Moussa, who replaced hard-liner Zaki Badr last month, is reported to be a moderate, able to talk to Muslims. Newspapers say hundreds have been released from jail since Moussa took

But Sheikh Omar says dozens have been arrested since Moussa took over and the word in Fayoum is that he is even tougher than his predecessor.

Sanctions forced change in South Africa'

By Christopher Wilson Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Ecopomic sanctions against South Africa have worked.

believe that the level of pain inflicted on South Africa by sanctions had become unendurable and was a major factor behind the government's recent sweeping political reforms.

Anti-apartheid campaigners worldwide hailed the lifting of a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) by President F.W. de Klerk and his promise of freedom for jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela as a victory for sanctions.

Sceptical analysts who once feared that financial and trade penalties would only stiffen the white government's resolve to cling to power and increase its hostility towards the outside world now concede that sanctions played a pivotal role in bringing political change.

"Without doubt it was necessary to put pressure on the govexament to implement reforms. One can't deny that sanctions have played a role in this," said Sample Terreblanche, professor of economics at Stellenbosch University.

Others agree. "It would be naive to believe that sanctions had no part in the recent reforms," said Ronnie Bethlehem. chief economist at mining house Johannesburg Consolidated In-

Terreblanche added: "The answer is not now to impose more sanctions. If the U.S. lifts sanctions, it could give de Klerk a boost to carry on with the reforms be has started

This game of sticks and carrots has to be played with great sophistication," he said.

Economists expect the United States to take the lead in reassessing sanctions as it did in 1986 This is the conclusion of eco- when Congress enacted the combarzing imports of South African iron, steel, coal, agricultural produce and krugerrands and halting new investment and bank loans.

But few believe sanctions will be rolled back until the government releases Mandela and starts power-sharing negotiations with

the black majority. "A reassessment of sanctions is now called for by the U.S. and the European Community. But the timing is very delicate. If sanctions are lifted too quickly, it could alientate the ANC," said a

Western diplomat in Pretoria. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Tuesday the European Community should lift its ban on new investment in South Africa when Mandela is

freed. But political analysts said Thatcher risked losing leverage with blacks if she pushed too hard to ease the pressure on Pretoria.

They added that foreign companies would not be keen to invest here as long as the ANC advocates nationalisation of major industries.

Economists point to a landmark speech by former Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock in 1988, in which he said Pretoria would have to devise a more equitable political system if it boped to stem the flight of capital

and revive growth.

They said the speech revealed traces of panic in high government circles about how severely sanctions were squeezing the ecotions issue are as clear inside lunge - about \$12 billion since South Africa as the racial divide. 1984 - most of it used to repay itself. Most black leaders - in 'foreign debt after international the ANC, anti-apartheid groups, the churches and the trade unions - support them. Most whites

oppose them. "Sanctions have played a major part in bringing South Africa this far. To lift the pressure now would be premature. The time to lift sanctions is once political negotiations are underway," said reformed churches leader Allan Boesak.

Meanwhile, local businessmen have become expert sanctions busters and South African companies operating abroad have learned to cover their tracks for fear of embarrassing attacks on their products and customers.

South African trade is now a murky business of middlemen. front companies, bills of lading with differing destinations and clandestine shipments through politically neutral countries.

Despite the bravado associated with circumventing sanctions, the psychological impact of disinvestment by a string of big-name multinational companies and the retreat into a siege economy has taken its toll.

The annual growth rate dropped to under two per cent in the 1980s from an average four per cent in the 1970s. The value of the rand has plummeted by two thirds against the dollar and halved against sterling over the past decade.

Black unemployment, estimated at 35 per cent, is soaring. Economists say that without foreign investment and bank loans. South Africa cannot hope to generate the four or five per cent growth it needs to keep pace with the burgeoning population. creditor banks cut off loans in

August 1985. Many believe this was the most damaging sanction of all.

quo cannot continue. The dilem-

ma he now fates is how to get the economy moving again, said Robert Schrife pointal science "De Klerk realises the status professor at the University of Cape Town.

Communism retains potency for anti-apartheid South Africans

By William MacLean

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's tiny Communist Party (SACP), free to operate openly after the government lifted a 40year ban on Friday, has an influence in the anti-apartheid movement that belies its size.

Party members occupy key positions in the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla organisation, also unbanned by Presideat F.W. de Klerk, and in rapidly growing black trade unions.

Left-wing activists and academics said the SACP is held in respect by many blacks who believe business has profited from the large' pool of cheap black labour created by apar-

"Oppression and capitalism go hand in hand," said Peter Mokaba of the South African Youth Congress, a major anti-apartheid group close to the ANC.
"Capitalism and racialism are

inextricably intertwined in South Africa," said university teacher Neville Alexander. Cries of "Viva SACP" and

"Slovo is our hero", a reference to Communist party leader Jose Slovo, are routine at meetings of a wide variety of anti-apartheid organisations. Slovo is a one-time supreme

commander of the ANC's military wing and still has a top post with the ANC. A white South African, he has been reviled by the authorities as public enemy number one.

The SACP's popularity soared during an uprising against white rule between 1984 and 1986 that radicalised black township youth, although membership is believed to have been kept deliberately small at around a few hundred for security reasons.

Left-wing activists said they beheved the unbanning of the party sprang from the collapse of Comst rule in Eastern Europe, which had had a moderating influence on the SACP and convinced Pretoria that Marxism was no longer a threat. The youth are very aware of

Eastern Europe and support perestroika," said Mokaba, referring to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union. Alexander told Reuters former

guerrilas trained in Eastern Europe before pro-democracy movements took hold there last vear had said they were disillusioned by their experiences. "Many of the political cadres

and guerrillas were alienated by conditions there," he said. Events in Eastern Europe led the 69-year-old Zambian-based SACP recently to abandon its longheld support for Stalinist Communism and embrace Gorbachev's reforms.

Slovo wrote recently that

Socialism and crumbled in Eastern Europe because it had become distorted, but the ideology still had a place in South Africa's future.

He said the party had moved away from the type of Socialism practised in Eastern Europe after World War In The SACP, secretive and intel-

lectual, and the mass-based ANC, the main organisation fighting white rule, are both committed to ending the inequalities of wealth between black and white and to a measure of nationalisation of industry: An important source of SACP

support has been the growth in membership of black unions, legalised in 1979. The unions say giant mining companies practise forms of apartheid in the workplace that would be illegal in Western Europe or North

A left-wing doctor close to the SACP said few Communists would feel confident enough to admit to membership of the party immediately.

"People will wait and see, they will be a little hesitant," he said.

Western dreams of a 'peace dividend' may still be long way off

By Stephen Jukes Reuter

LONDON — In their minds, Western politicians are already spending defence savings cause by troop cuts in Europe, but economists say the "peace di-vidend" of East bloc reform could impose heavy social and

economic costs. Such experts say the prospect of huge defence cuts promised by the revolution in the Eastern bloc will in the short term prove chisive and redrawing the military map of Europe could, on the contrary, impose uncharted bur-

dens on people and economies.

White House proposals for deeper U.S. and Soviet forces

cuts in Europe and a growing perception in the West that the

military threat, have raised hopes for massive savings on defence budgets in coming years.

Belgium and the Netherlands have already indicated they are

auxious to cash in the peace

dividend and cut their troop levels in West Germany. In Washington, as the annual ritual of negotiating the budget begins, congressmen are looking to fund domestic programmes

through defence cuts. But economists caution that at a time when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is taking the biggest gamble of his career in breaking the Communist Party's monopoly on power, the political and military picture of Eastern Europe is far from stable.

"Instability in Eastern Europe argues against doing away with Warsaw Pact poses a dwindling armies altogether and the need

West — that would be very ex-pensive," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"Until the strategic options are clarified, we don't really know what the peace dividend is."

In the short-term, economists say troop cuts could spark expensive reorganisation of NATO forces and produce knock-on effects throughout West European economies where thousands of jobs depend on the military structure of the past 40 years.

Hopes for a peace dividend stem from the crushing burden of defence spending caused by Western commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as guarantor of their first post-cold war budget, the Pentagon has requested \$306.9 billion for defence in the 1991 fiscal year starting in October. It represents a cautious cut of just two per cent in real terms and a huge \$180 billion of the total will go to maintaining European defence where 325,000 army, navy and air force personnel are sta-

There's going to be a peace dividend, but it's not going to be as large as some naively think at the moment," White House Budget Director Richard Darman said 10 days ago.

To keep the 57,500 strong British army in West Germany plus

air force personnel costs about £4.3 billion (\$7.3 billion) in the current fiscal year, defence offi-

Figures compiled by NATO show defence spending made up an average 6.3 per cent of U.S. gross domestic product over the past five years, while the burden on Britain was 4.6 per cent, on the Netherlands 3.0 per cent and on Belgium 2.9 per cent. Analysis say the true peace

pushed well into the future and will be closely linked to the progress on arms talks between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. President George Bush's new proposal to leave 195,000 U.S. troops in West Germany, plus olans to close or cut back 10 bases

in Europe, appears to be part of a

dividend looks likely to be

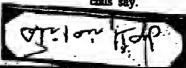
complex balancing act.

Analysis say Bush wants to head off calls in Congress for bigger defence cuts as budget negotiations get under way. But

he also wants to allay concern among West European leaders that U.S. troops will pull out too soon or be cur unilaterally.

Even a relatively modest de-militarisation of West Germany could have a heavy initial social, and economic cost:

many spend about 14 billion marks (\$8.4 billion) a year in the gures, some 65,000 West German nationals are employed directly by the military and another 125,000 jobs are dependent on U.S. forces. In 1988, the army? was the 13th largest non-governmental employer. A cut of about 50,000 U.S. toogs now contemplated by Bush pould have a knock-on effect throughout the economy.



Invité à Amman à l'occasion de la première «tribune» musicale arabe

Patrick Lama: la tradition contemporaine

La première stribunt radiophonique consecrée à la musi-que traditionnelle arabe s'est découlée à Auman du 3 au 7 février, à l'occasion de la 122me résulon du bureau exécutif de l'Académie de musique arabe (AMA). Parmi les artistes invités, figurait notamment le planiste et compositeur d'origine

palestinienne Patrick Lama. Depuis son installation à Paris en 1967, ce «musicien-chercheur» se consacre à l'étude approfondie des mélodies et des rythmes de la musique des premiers siècles de l'Islam. Etude, qu'il a mise au service de ses propres

y être opposés». Patrick Lama, lui, a choisi de s'en servir. «Dans mes oeuvres pour piano, j'ai aotamment conserve les structures à quatre

Un manque de création

mises au service d'une écriture musi-cale moderne et destinée à des instru-

ments occidentaux. Il en va de même pour le chant, qu'il a composé pour voix mezzo-soprano, accompagnée

par un quatuor on ne peut plus occidental: hauthois, clarinette, flûte

et piano. «Le gros problème actuel

des musicions arabes vient de leurs complexes à l'égard de l'Europe ou des Etats-Unis. Soit ils imitent l'Occi-

dent, soit ils socientalisents des in-

struments, qu'ils ridiculisent le plus

Selon hii, ces «complexes» sont à l'origine d'un «manque important de création musicale» contemporaine

dans le monde arabe. «La plupart du

l'Occident. On alors, ils écrivent des

ocuvres, de médiocre qualité musi-

cale, qui répondent avant tout à des

sollicitations politiques. Du coup, notre culture se fige et il est encore dur de faire comprendre ici que la création musicale authentique est

La voie empruntée par Patrick Lama reste étroite. Ses partitions sont

aujourd'hui étudiées dans les conser-

vatoires de Boston ou Bruxelles mais

elles ne sont jamais jonées par

d'autres musiciens. Si l'urchestre

euro-arabe vient de lui commander

une ocuvre, il est cependant curicux

que l'Institut du Monde Arabe, à Paris, n'ait encore jamais sollicité ce

cien-chercheur» unique en son

es arabes ou copient celles de

temps, les musiciens orch mélodies arabes ou conjen

possibles

Le compositeur les a cependant

Ne nous inépressons pas. Tout rabes qu'il soit, Patrick Lams ou un Aine. Ainsi de ses perdices pour piano, qu'il a interprétées pour la première fois en Jordanie dans les salons de l'hôtel Philadelphis morcrodi soir. Anneales, suz sempos libres et aux rythmes aboudants, ses créations recèlent pourtant sombre de lleus étroits avec la nunique arabe des premiers siècles de l'Hégire, celle du lemps de la «Rensissance» islamique et des premiers califies.

ct des prepiers califes.
Parfois aride, souvent abstraite, t'ocuvre de Patrick Lama est le frait d'une volonté plutôt originale dans le monde des arostes arabes celle d'un curacinement dans une tradition onblice su service d'une exéstion artisque authentique, dooblée d'une utilisa-tion de techniques musicales et d'une instrumentation étrangères à cette tradiçion régionale.

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Entre Orient et Occident

L'itioéraire personnel de Patrick Lama illustre parantement le trait d'union qui s'est gline dans son travail entre l'Orient et l'Occident. Né en 1940 à Jérusalem, il a passé toute st entouré de m sicient. Son père tennit en effet à époque les organs de l'église du Saint-Sépulere. Compositeur de musique religiouse, c'est lui qui a mis le pard à l'étrier à son fils. «Mon père eté mon premier maître», souligne-

t-il.

En 1960, c'est pourtant en France, que Patrick Lama, mini d'une bourse, fait ses premières gammes d'étudiant. Il apprend le pisno à l'Ecolo normale de musique de Páris. Ouatre ans plus tard, son diplôme d'enseignant en poche, il choist de contrer en Palestine, els vouleis créer. rentrer en Palestine. «Je vonisis créer



Patrick Laure jacout sex seavres mercroff deraier: one pressing à Amman.

à l'érassiem une école de musique et y mettre en contact les cultures occidentale et orientale», rappelle-t-

Le projet du jeune musicien en ne verra pas le jour. La guerre de 1967 le pousse à repartir, direction Paris. De 1967 à 1972, Patrick Lels prend des cours de direc-tion d'orchestre et de composition. avec le compositeur français Henri Dutilleux. «Dès le début de mes

ctudes, je pensais à ocrire des ocuvres», attirme-t-il. Il hi restait copendant une «contra-diction» à surmonter: «Je ne ponvais pas composer de unsique authenti-C'est alors qu'il commence à se plonger dans la musique arabe tradition-nelle. Je me puis refait une éduca-

Pour l'ancien élève de l'Ecole normaic, c'est une époque de «déconverte» qui commence. Celle des modes, des genres et même de l'écoute musicale des premiers siècles de l'Islam. «Rapidement, j'ai pensé faire une étude particulière sur la musique palestimenne. Ca n'avait jamais été fait, poursuit-il.

Cette fois l'idée prend corps. Sub-ventionné en 1978 par l'UNESCO, Patrick Lama part à la recherche d'enregistrements. «Je suis venu en Jordanie, au Liban...". De retour à Paris, d'transcrit pour la première fois des mélodies jamais écites et entrep-rend d'analyser leurs liens structurels avoc la musique classique, dans un livre paru en 1981. «Les structures, souvent basées sur une série de quatre notes, étaient faciles à reconnaftre, Par contre, j'ai eu beauconp

occidentales, avoue-t-il. Il a aussi essuyé quelques critiques.

On écrit la musique arabe depuis la fito du XIXe siècle seulement. Certains musiciens continuent d'ailleurs à

Le rôle de l'UNESCO "Diffuser la musique traditionnelle"

Le Conseil international de la musique (CIM), organisme de l'UNESCO basé à Paris, est à l'origine des "tribunes radiophoniques" offertes aux compositeurs et interprêtes de musiques traditionnelles dans le monde. Jendi s'est achevée à Amman la première du genre dans le monde arabe. Guy Ruot, secrétaire exécutif du ClM, explique au "Jourdain" le rôle de diffusion des ocuvres "recommandées" que joue le Conseil.

Caraldes. D'aport, sa creation à Amman a colncidé avec une réunion du diale de la musique...

bureau de l'Académie de musique
arabe (AMA), organisme de la Ligue
arabe et nous garderons probablement la même formule dans l'avenir.

Ensuite, les pays participants ont
présenté eux-mêmes leurs ocuvres, publics?

présenté eux-mêmes leurs ocuvres, publics? nand ils ne les ont pas interprétée sevant nous. Nous avons ainsi eu G.H.: C'est une crainte qui a été asse

en faveur des oeuvres et des musiciens sélectionnées par la tribune?

bande maîtresse des ocuvres recom-mandées par la tribune. Des copies problèmes majeurs de la musique seront ensuite offertes à toutes les arabe. Le CDM peut-il là annsi jouer radios des pays arabes. Par ailleurs, un rôle? un autre enregistrement sera fait pour nous etnous allons le proposer aux G.H.; En principe, le CIM peut four-stations africaines, assatiques... avec nir une aide à la création. En pratipotre rôle essentiel.

J.: De quels antres moyens de promotion disposer-vous?

G.H.: Ils sont très variés, Nous avons,

Le Jourdain: Quel bilan faites vous de par exemple, une collection de dis-cette première tribune de la musique ques de musiques traditionnelles, qui traditionnelle arabe? comporte aujourd'hui à peu près 150 Guy Hant: Positif. Même si cette train de les rééditer graduellement en première tribune s'est déroulée dif disques compacts et cassettes avec léremment de celles que nous organi- l'aide de la compagnie française Ausons habituellement en Asie, en Afrique, en Amérique du Sud ou aux depuis déjà une dizaine d'années, à la Caraïbes. D'abord, sa création à Am-réalisation d'une encyclopédie monman a collecté auxe une conscionée du diele de la macana.

droit à de véritables paysages sonores souvent é voquée pendant nos discus du monde arabe. des musiques, au contact des autre J.: Quelle action affez-vous mener cultures ou par besoin de commer male. Mais il faut parallèles G.H.: Première chose, le secrétariat devrait être. C'est aussi notre tâche. de l'AMA à Bagdad va préparer une bande maitresse de l'AMA à Bagdad va préparer une

lesquelles le Conseil international de que, je ne sais pas encore comment ca la musique est en contact. La diffus- peut se faire. C'est an contact de nos sion des musiques traditionnelles est collègnes arabes, avec lesquels nous avons désormais rendez-vous tous le deux aos, que je l'apprendrai.

> Propos recueillis per A. R.

Vote du budget 1990 par le Parlement Pleins feux sur la crise économique

Au terme de trois jours de discussions intenses, la Chambre des députés a adopté il y a une somaine le projet de budget 1990 du gouvernement. Sur les 75 pariementaires présents en séance, 19 out cependant voté contre et 4 sont abstenus. Si les débats ont montré que la "jeune démocratie" jordanienne se porte bien, ils ont aussi mis en évidence l'acuité de la crise économique mationale.

Dette extédeure, chômage, vie notamment évoqué le "drame" du chère: avant, même le débat, par ... camp de résigiés de Baq'a, où s'en-lementure, la Commission des Finances, qui n'est penchée sur le habitants au km2 et où la qualité des nances, que s'est penchée sur le budget pendant deux semaines, avait tiré la sonnette d'alazme. Dans son rapport, elle soulignait avec in-quietnde le surendettement de la Jordanie, le taux critique du chômage (16,6% de la population active) et estimait l'augmentation du coût de la vie en 1989 bien plus éleyée que ne l'avait laimé entendre le ministre des

La Commissions avait donc recommandé une diminution des dépenses de l'Etat de l'odre de 15 millions de dinars. Gouvernement et Parlement se sont finalement mis d'accord pour une économie budgetaire de 11,5 millions. Elle a également proposé la fusion de certains établissements "semi-privés" avec les services pub-lics (ainisi de l'Office des ports avec le ministère des Transports).

Les députés, eux, out oscillé au cours des débats entre deux attitudes. Beaucoup ont d'abord présenté publi-quement les revendictions de leurs électorats respectifs, parmi lesquelles la construction de mutes, d'écoles, de a construction de much, de cotte, de centres médicaux ou encoce l'ouver-ture de bureaux de postes et l'exten-tion des réseaux électrique et télépho-nique... Le Dr. Abdallah Nsour, député du gouvernement de Balqa, a

. Trois tendances

La soinentaine de parlementaires qui ont pris la perole à la tribune, ont ensuite proposé leurs "solutions" à la crise économique aigué que traverse le royaume. Trois tendances se sont ainsi dégagées. Certains chus, tel Tah-cr al-Masri, ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères et député de la troisième circonscription d'Amman, ont mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'encourager le secteur privé et d'ac-croître les luvestissements dans le domaine des services: banques assurances, enseignement...

D'autres, comme Bassam Hada-dine, Fakhri Kawar ou Issa Madanat, ont appelé à la transformation de l'économie nationale en "secteur productif". Ils out critiqué les choix du gouvernement, qui se traduiront, selon cux, par une pression encore plus forte sur les milieux défavorisés. Tous out par ailleurs dépondé les accords signés entre Annuan et le leands, monétaire international Fonds monétaire international (FMI), réclamant leur "révision" et

l'élaboration d'un programme national de développement,

Enfin, à l'instar de Leith Chbeilat, quelques députés ont demandé la "militarisation" de la société jordanienne. A en croire l'élu de la capitale, une telle mesure permeturait à la nation de résourdre ses problèmes de consommation tout en lui permettant, si cela devient nécessaire, de faire face à Israël.

La plupart des intervenants ont La plupart des musivement souligné le besoin de développement de l'agriculture, afin de "dir dépendance alimentaire" da royaume. Beaucoup out estimé que le secteur primaire ponyait offrir des emplois à nombre de chômeurs et devait jouer un rôle important dans

A l'issue de la dernière séance, A l'assue de la dernière seauce, samedi, becancoup de députés sont sortis déçus. Dans sa réponse à la Chambre, le premier ministre a refusé toute augmentation rapide des salaires, aousi qu'ils le réclamaient. Moudar Badran a souligné que le dinar ajouté à la feuille de paye mensuelle des fonctionnaires coûtera 45 millions de dinars su Tossor. Un 5 millions de dinars au Trésor. Un déficit, que le gouvernement espère combler avec les subventions promises par les Etats arabes pétroliers, dont l'Arabic Saoudite et les Emirats Arabes Unis.

Le premier ministre a par contre proposé la mise en place d'un plan de lutte coutre le chômage. Il s'agit essentiellement de mesures administratives, tel le remplacement de la main d'ocuvre immigrée, le recyclage et la formation des chômeurs et l'ouverture de bureaux de placement.

Sulciman Sweiss.

A partir de ce soir

Alain Renon.

Festival du film européen

Le troisième festival du film

européen, organisé conjointement par la délégation de la CEE er Jordanie et les ambassades des pays membres de la Communauté ouvre ce soir an cinéma Phi adelphia de Djebel Amman, Huit longs métrages figurent an prog-ramme de cette troisième édition qui prendra fin la 17 février. Les huit films proposés, qui son sortis en Europe entre 1986 et 1988, sont inédits en Jordanie. Par ordre de passage sur l'écran, vous pourrez voir: «Lunga Vita alla Signora», film italien d'Emmano Olmi (ce soir); «Le Grand Bleu» du réalisateur français Luc Besson (demain); «On the Black Hill», du ique Andrew Grieve (handi 12); Sailors don't cry, du cinéaste belge Marc Didden (mardi 13); Der Flieger, film allemand d'Erwin Keusch (mercredi 14); Yenethlia Poli, du réalisateur gree Takis Papayannidis (jendi 15); «El Amor Brujo», film espagnol de Carlos Saura (vendredi 16); Zoeken naar Eileen, du Nécriandais Rudolí Van Den Berg (samedi 17). Les films sont sous-titrés en anglais. Toutes les projections, qui débutent à 20h00, seront suivies de

débats, animos par le responsable du ciné-club d'Amman, Hassan Abou Ghanime. Dernier détail: l'entrée du Philadelphia, une fois n'est pas coutume, est gratuite. Pestival du film européan du 10 au 17 février, cinéma Philadelphia. Tél: 634144.

Canal France International-JTV D'avantage

de programmes en français

La télévision jordanienne a inanguré jendi la mise en service de la station satellite, qui lui permet désormais de recevoir les images de Canal France International (CFI), au rythme de quatre henres de programmes chaque jour.

C'est fait. Depuis jendi, la ITV reçoit les images que lui envoie CFI depuis la France via le satellite Intelsat 5 F11. La station de réception, installée dans l'enciente de la radiotélévision nationale, a en effet été inaugurée le 8 février.

L'adhésions de la JTV à Canal France International va ku permettre de disposer désormais de 1460 heures annuelles de programmes, au lieu des 550 actuelles, dont la majeure partie était acheminée sur vidéo-cassettes par avion. Sélectionnés par CFI auprès des chaînes françaises, ces progmes se composent pour un tiers de fiction, pour un autre tiers de divertissement et pour un dernier tiers de sujets d'information, de magazines culturels ou sportifs.

Nous offrons ces programmes libres de droits, a souligné jeudi au cours d'une conférence de presse à Amman le président de CFI, Fouad Benhalla. Nous fournissons les images et l'antenne gratuitement. La JTV se charge ensuite de leur traitement. Elle fera ce qu'elle voudra des modules que nous lui adressons, comme tous les partenaires de CFI». M. Benhalla a ajouté que la JTV avait fait la «promesse» d'augmenter de volume horaire de son programme en français.

L'ambassadeur de France a indiqué

pour sa part que «l'accord entre CFI et la IIV s'inscrit dans le cadre du nouvel élan que nous voulons donner à notre coopération, déjà ancienne avec la télévision nationales. Denis Bauchard a également annoncé que la France allait «développer ses prog-



Found Benhalla, président de CFI.

rammes de stages au profit des techni-ciens» locaux et qu'elle restait «prête à aider la JTV à produire des programmes francophones».

La Jordanie est le premier pays de

la région à s'associer avec CFI, qui compte actuellement une vingtaine de cillents africains et européens de l'Est. «Dans les trois mois qui viennents, seinn Funad Benhalla. l'Egypte et la Syrie devraient prendre le même chemin, avec à la clé la création de programmes en français sur les télévisions des deux pays.

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EN BREF

Emploi. Le ministère jordanien du Travail a suspendu jeudi l'octroi de permis de travail aux étrangers et décidé de mener une enquête pour mettre un terme à l'emploi d'immigrés chandestins dans le pays. Selon les autorités, ces derniers représenteraient en effet plus de 78% des 210.000 étrangers travaillant dans le royaume. Ces mesures font suite aux déclarations du ministrie du Travail, Gassim Obeidat, qui a appelé la semaine dernière à la mise en place d'un "programme d'urgence" pour donner cette année 25.000 emplois à des ressortissants nationans. D'après les chiffres officiels, 100.000 Jordaniens, sur une population active totale de quelque 600.000 personnes, se trouvent actuellement au chômage.

CCA. Le secrétaire général du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA) a affirmé mercredi à Amman que l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël sera la question la "plus importante parmi celles qui seront débattues au sommet" du 24 février prochain en Jordanie. Qualifiant cette vague de nouveaux arrivants de "défi évident pour les pays arabes", Hilmi Nammer a notamment souligné que ses "répercussions" se révéleraient "dangereuses" pour "le règlement de la question palestimenne". Lundi, 97 personnalités (dont les rédacteurs en chers des journaux) et parlementaires jordaniens out adressé une pétition à l'ambassade d'URSS à Amman, appelant Moscou à une "action rapide visant à arrêter cette immigration massive vers la Palestine une "action rapide visant à arrêter cette immigration massive vers la Palestine

Réunion. L'OL a officiellement demandé à la Jordanie d'acqueillir une réunion du Conseil central palestinien au début du mois de mars. Structure consultative intermédiaire entre la direction du mouvement et le Conseil national palestinien, le CCP pourrait voir réunis à Arman les leaders du FDLP et du FPLP. Nayef Hawatmeh et Georges Habache, pour la première

Revendications. L'un des principaux groupes islamistes des territoires occupés, Beit Al Makdesss, a revendiqué lundi depuis Amman l'attentat du weck-end dernier contre un autobus, qui transportait des touristes israéliens près d'Ismalia en Egypte. La veille, une organisation incomme avait elle aussi clamé sa responsabilité dans cet acte terroriste, qui a coûté la vie à 11 personnnes. Alors que les autorités du Caire poursuivent leur investigation, le Front populaire de libération de la Palestine-Commandement général (FPLP-CG) d'Ahmed Jibril a démenti mercredi depuis Damas être impliqué

Révolution. Au terme de deux jours et demi d'âpres débats, marqués par une offensive en règle des conservateurs contre Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, le plenum du Comité central du Parti communiste soviétique à finalement accepté mercredi d'ouvrir la voie au multipartisme en URSS en adoptant la proposition du numéro un soviétique d'abroger l'article 6 de la Constitution, qui affirme le rôle dirigeant exclusif du PC dans le pays. Point important de la réforme politique nationale envisagée par M. Gorbatchev, cette décision doit cependant être approuvée par le 28e Congrès du PC soviétique, prévu fin juin ou début juillet, pour entrer en vigueur. Le vote est intervenu au moment où le secrétaire d'Etat américain entamait une visite de trois jours en URSS. Le voyage de James Baker entre dans le cadre de la préparation du prochain net Bush-Gorbatchev de juin, aux Etats-Unis.

Vote immigré. Quelque 130 organisations viennent de créer im "Collectif pour le droit de vote des résidents étrangers aux élections locales, en France, avec pour objetif d'obtenir l'entrée en vigueur d'une loi en ce sens avant la fin avec pour objetut d'obtenir l'entrée en vigueur d'une foi en ce sens avant la un de la législature, en 1992. Ce drait comprendrait également l'élégibilité des résidents étrangers aux mêmes élections, c'est-à-dire "municipales, canto-nales et régionales", a précisé mercredi Me Henri Lecterc, vice-président de la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, au cours d'une conférence de presse

Tentation. Des épouses de marins de la Royal Navy ont protesté mardi contre la décision du gouvernement britannique d'autoriser les personnels féminins de l'armée à servir sur les frégates. "Je n'aime pas ça. Vous ne pouvez pas vous attendre à ce que les hommes restent dans leurs quartiers et les femmes dans les leurs? les femmes dans les leurs", a notament souligné l'une d'entre elles, plutôt effrayée par cette révolution... typiquement britannique.

A L'AFFICHE.

CINEMA

Life with father, de Michael Curitz, avec William Powell, Irene Dunne et Elizabeth Taylor, L'éducation d'une jeune fille par un père affectueux mais autoritaire et nostalgique de l'époque victorienne, qui use volon-tiers de la baguette de bambou. Un apercu sur la vie quotidienne à New York au tournant the siècle. Centre américais, dimanche, 11 février, à 1946 (en anglais).

Orson Welles. Regard sur l'écrivain, l'acteur, le réalisateur et producteur, récompensé en 1970 (Oscar spécial)

pour l'ensemble de son ocuvre cinématographique, dont son fameux Citizen Kanc. Centre américain, mardi 13 février à 1950 (en auglais).

Sophie's choice, d'Alan J. Pakula. avec Meryl Streep et Kevin Kline. Eté 1947: l'Amérique tente d'effacer toutes les séquelles de la deutième guerre mondiale, en dépit des drames personnels...

Centre américain, jeudi 15 février à 19166 (ca anglais).

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveau film, le lundi à 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 15h00.

jeumes, le jeudi à 15h00.

Samesti 10: Gaged edge; The world, according to Garp; Bugay Malone; Little girl who lives; Foxes.

Dhanache 11: Blood of others (I); Blood of others (II); Hotel New Hampshire; Working girl; Bad lands.

Landi 12: Caries; Heart beat; Coal miner's daughter; Missing; The river.

Mardi 13: I, star; Possession; L'Histoire d'Adèle H.; Nosteratu; Timo after time.

Mercredi 14: Camille Claudel (I); Camille Claudel (II); Melvin and Howard; Midummer night; Ragtime.

Dead of winter; The driver; Space has Vendredi 16: Pretty in pink; Tempest; Two brain man; Body heat; Les Diamants du

Nil.
Films en version originale. Tél 603901.
Route de l'université de Jordanie, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem pais première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300m, sur la ganche. Films européens. Le délégation de

la CEE en Jordanie, en collaboration avec les ambassades de la Communanté européenne, proposent buit rendez-vous avec le cinéma des-années 1980 du Vieux Continent. Cinéma Philadelphia, du samedi 10 au simanche 18 février. Séances à 2060. Entrée libre. (Voir encadré).

CONCERT

Trio. Les violonistes français Joëlle Gérard et Bernard Mauppin, accom-pagnés au piano par Elsa Matouk, interprètent des oeuvres de Senaille. Vivaldi, Leclair, Dvorak, Fauré, Massenet et Bartok. Université du Yarmonk, Irbid, samedi 10 Sévrier à 18h00, Prix des places: 4 dinara.

EXPOSITIONS

Photo. 29 images pour 29 mises en scène de Chéreau, Mesgnieh, Mnouchkine, Savary, Vitez... captées par les photographes français Brigitte et Marc Enguerand. Centre coltarel français, jusqu'an 22 fév-

Peinture. "Du réalisme à l'abstrait." exposition consacrée aux peintres Alia al-Shanti Amoura, Nabila Hilmi en Nawal al-Abdallah. car avawar al-Abdallah. Centre eniturel scientifique de la Fondation Shoman, jasqu'un 25 février. Tous les jours de 1600 à 17h00, sant le vendredi. Tél: 679166.

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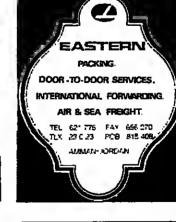


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CHEN'S



Third World lending press Japanese banks

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese banks may have a lion's share of the international banking busines but they now must come to grips with the same problems that hammered many big U.S. banks in the last decade: bad Third World loans, rising interest rates and a potential downturn in their domestic real estate market.

"It's clear the Japanese banks will be pressured to take on a more philanthropic role," Simon Smithson, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson Securities, said of Japan's Third World debt exposure. "Some hard decisions will have to be made.

Japanese banks now constitute the world's 10 biggest on basis of assets, partly due to growth stem-ming from the booming Japanese economy of the 1980s and the rise of the yen against the dollar.

As they grew so did their international business, including such areas as developing-country loans that now are seen as potential trouble spots.

In recent years, U.S. banks have restructured a significant portion of their loans to many Latin American countries while beefing up reserves for covering bad loans and writing down the

value of some credits. Those actions directly reduced profits. Japanese banks generally have a lower overall exposure to Third World debt than do U.S. banks, with Latin American loans accounting for an estimated three per cent to six per cent of commercial banks' outstanding loans. However, their reserves for covering bad loans also are re-

latively small. Major U.S. and British banks have reserves to cover as much as 80 per cent of their outstanding Third World loans. Japanese banks are just now raising their reserves to 25 per cent from 15 per cent by the end of March. Japanese banks also are set to take an earnings hit by writing off

a portion of their medium and long-term loans to Mexico following a recently approved debt restructuring agreement between Mexico and 450 creditor banks. Japan also has potential loan problems on the domestic front.

Smithson said trust banks' loans to corporations and commercial banks' loans to individuals for real estate could be hit hard by a major downturn in the overheated Japanese property market.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, February 8, 1990

	Centra	Bank	official rates		
U.S. dollar Pound Sterling Deutschemark Swiss franc	Buy 659.0 1119.5 395.1 441.2	Sell 665.0 1130.7 399.1 445.6	French franc Japanese yen (for 100) Dutch guider Swedish crown Italian irra (for 100) Belgian franc (for 10)	116.1 452.6 350.1 108.0 53.1 190.0	117.3 457.1 353.6 109.1 53.6 191.9

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

Feb. 3 -- 7

Jan. 27-31

200	Ame. 71-41
JD 1,970,771	JD 2,415,935
	JD 12,079,677
4,132,194	4,961,060
4,798	5,307
oral trading:	
JD 3,876,820	JD 5,375,475
(39.3%)	(44.5%)
JD 3,821,017	JD 4,627,631
(38.8%)	(38.3%)
(19.5%)	(14.6%)
(2.4%)	(2.6%)
144.1	144.2
73	73
13	21
48	42
12	10
	JD 3,876,820 (39.3%) JD 3,821,017 (38.8%) (19.5%) (2.4%) 144.1 73 13 48

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6910/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1945/55	Canadian dollar
	1.6670/77	Deutschemarks
	1.8800/10	Dutch guilders
	1.4880/90	Swiss francs
	34.93/96	Belgian francs
	5.6700/50	French francs
	1240/1241	Italian lire
	145.32/42	Japanese yen
	6.0800/1200	Swedish crowns
	6.4550/4600	Norwegian crowns
	6.4375/4425	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	418.40/418.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks closed sharply lower on nervousness about debt levels of the Adsteam Group and earnings of News Corp. The All Ordinaries closed 18.0 down at 1,630.6.

TOKYO - Caution ahead of a three-day weekend and the Feb. 18 elections brought trade to a near standstill and dragged share prices down. The Nikkei index dropped 228.10 to 37,288.14. HONG KONG - Profit-taking after the week's 160-point gain on the Hang Seng brought some easing in share prices. The Hang Seng index shed 9.87 to 2,893.90.

SINGAPORE — The stock market succumbed to profit-taking as prices closed lower over a broad front in active trading. The Straits Times index rose 7.26 to end at 1,581.52.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange closed Friday after a 19-year old messenger was found banged in a broker's office. FRANKFURT — Shares ended sharply lower as investors, already fittery over sharp declines in bond prices, took profits in a thin market. The DAX ended 29.90 points lower at 1,885.89. ZURICH Swiss shares closed generally lower in mostly quiet trading as prices came off their early highs on profit taking. The SPI index lose 5.2 to 1,127.1.

PARIS - Share prices reversed their initial slight upward trend and traded at midday near the day's lows, as fears of inflationary pressure and interest rate rises in West Germany gained ground. The CAC-40 index was 6.66 points down at 1,898.85 at 1200

LONDON - Shares were weak near close with hesitant Wall Street start and investors' concern over possible high German interest rates. By 1600 GMT the FTSE was down 18.8 at 2,312.3. NEW YORK — Technically-based profit-taking ate away strong early blue chips gains, turning stocks mixed in late morning. The Dow was down six points at 2639.

debt rises

BASLE, Switzerland (R) - Most East European countries slipped deeper into debt to Western banks in the third quarter of 1989 as their struggling economies con-tinued to soak up foreign capital, according to the West's clearing

make are ultimately for real

estate and could become irre-

land prices reaches into many

sectors of the economy. The rate

of increase has slowed since 1987,

when land prices grew 70 per cent, to 24 per cent in 1988 and

2.7 per cent in the first six months

to conclude that prices could sof-

Japan's overheated property mar-

ket Moody's Investors Service

Inc. this week downgraded its

credit ratings for Japan's three largest trust banks — Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp., Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co., and

Mitsui Trust and Banking Co.

residential area actually did fall in

the first half of last year, by 4.4

per cent from a year earlier, the

National Land Agency reported.

In an average-priced Tokyo

neighbourhood, a square metre

of residential land costs I million

yen (\$6,900), according to a sur-

vey last spring by the Association of Real Estate Appraisal.

But Tokyo's commercial land

prices continued to edge up last

year. The most expensive com-

mercial property cost 35.3 million yen (\$254,000) a square metre

last year, up from 33.6 million yen (\$242,000) the previous year.

the National Land Agency said.

Land prices in less-developed

suburbs also continued rising, it

Richard Koo, senior economist

at Nomura Research Institute,

said falling land prices right now would have limited impact on

"Japanese banks use extremely

conservative accounting methods

sometimes (using) the actual ac-

cuisition price from 20 years ago,

bank assets.

damage," he said.

Land in Tokyo's highest-priced

of 1989 — leading some analysts

Reflecting uncertainty over

Concern over Tokyo's inflated

coverable," he said.

ten or fall.

Figures Thursday by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) show that the Soviet Union, fighting to modernise, was the region's biggest borrower in the quarter.

Adjusted for exchange rates, its foreign bank debt grew by \$1.58 billion in the period to \$42.06 hillion.

Gross debt in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Albania also rose, but other countries' indebtedness declined when exchange rates were adjusted, the BIS said.

The BIS acts as the clearing house for the world's leading central banks and monitors the international flow of money among banks in major financial

Banks reporting to the BIS said their total lending to the region swelled by \$1.93 billion between the end of June and the end of September to \$91.80 billion. The major Western banks loaned the region \$5.54 billion in the first half of 1989.

The Soviet Union's borrowing accounted for almost all of the loans to Eastern Europe in the quarter. Its foreign bank debt has risen by around \$9 billion in the year ended last September, making its indebtedness roughly equal to Australia's.

The Soviet Union also withdrew \$675 million in foreign deposits, bringing its total down to \$14.77 billion. In addition, its borrowing on international bond markets rose by \$500 million in the quarter to \$1.4 billion.

The next biggest borrower in the period was Czechoslovakia, whose bank debt rose an adjusted \$223 million to \$4.6 billion.

Hungary's debt to BIS reporting banks advanced by \$158 million to \$11.4 billion, and Bulgarso even a 30 per cent decline in ia's outstanding borrowing climbed by \$104 million to \$7.48 land prices wouldn't do that much

Bass completes deal for Holiday Inn chain

ATLANTA (AP) - The worldwide base of Holiday Inns is moving to Atlanta, though the U.S. operations of "the world's innkeeper will remain in Memphis, Tennessee, a British brewer said Thursday after completing a \$2.2 billion acquisition of the motel chain.

Bass PLC of Great Britain announced it had completed the acquisition about three weeks after Holiday Corp. shareholders overwhelmingly approved the sale of the chain and three years after Bass became involved in the business by buying eight European Holiday Inns.

Bass, which has more than 7,300 pubs and restaurants in the United Kingdom and brews a variety of beers including Bass and carling Black Label, sought the Holiday Inns in an effort to establish itself as an international force in the hotel industry.

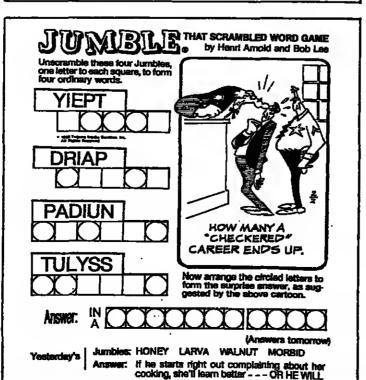
Holiday Inns have 1,589 hotels and 318,012 rooms in 52 countries around the world.

We've been moving toward this global situation for a few years,"

said Hamish Swan, vice president of Bass' hotels division. Swan said the Atlanta headquarters will include a relatively small staff including Bryan Langton, the chairman of the Bass hotels and restaurants division who will become chairman and chief executive officer of Holiday Inns Inc.



The universe is expanding, so it's only natural that my waist will expand with it!"



Higher interest rates, | E. Europe | E. Germany brakes rush to union

EAST BERLIN (R) - The East ing an international conference in German government has put a brake on the headlong rush towards German unity, telling Bonn that currency union will have to wait at least until after its first free elections next month.

West Germany is pushing all out to merge its powerful currency with the non-convertible East German mark as a first step to political union. But East German Economics

Minister Christa Luft said Thursday her government did not have the authority to bargain away effective control of its economy

economic and social consequences that a government with only a few weeks left in office understandably cannot give its blessing," Luft told Reuters dur-

The East German elections,

unprecedented in a country ruled communists since its founding in 1949, are due March 18.

Earlier Prime Minister Hans Modrow said he would not respond to an offer to discuss currency union with West Germany

until he visited Bonn next week. He told West German television he had not even been officially informed of the offer, made by the Bonn cabinet Wednesday, but heard about it through the

"Such a union has such huge A week ago most observers saw currency union as a far-off goal but West German Chancelfor Helmut Kohl appears to have staked his political future on it. West Germany holds its own

national elections in December. Kohl's call Tuesday for immediate talks on currency union grate was coupled with a rider that he knew it would be impossible to achieve before next month's East

German elections.

But the West German leader. who until recently was preaching patience to East Germans demanding a single state, overrode his fiercely independent central bank Wednesday and decided to seek immediate monetary union.

political process," said Finance soaring.

"West Germany is about to

ing Bonn's bold decision. Bonn fears East Germany's fragile economy might collapse as rather face the consequences of leap in the dark."

quick union than watch its east ern neighbour slowly disinte-

But its bold overtures have opened a Pandora's box of worries over financial and political

stability. The two Germanys are solit between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, the Western military alliance, which has called for concrete plans on the future of Euro-

pean security. The Frankfurt bond market got the litters about rising inflation, "We must remain master of the sending money market rates

embark on a huge political gamble with economic consequences which cannot be calculated," said thousands of people leave for the West each day and says it would man Brothers in London. "It is a

Sweden proposes price-wage freeze

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The government Thursday proposed a two-year wage-price freeze and a ban on strikes, in what it called a take-it-or-leave-it package to bring crippling labour action under control.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carl-sson said his Social Democratic government could not remain in office if the package fell in parliament, in what ammounted to a rare resignation threat.

Opposition members accused the government of imposing economic martial law and a communist-style planned economy, at a time when such systems were being ditched in Eastern Europe.

"If parliament rejects our demands, the government can not stay on," Carlsson told a news conference. "We will not administer an economy which is falling apart." A vote was expected next

The plan was designed to curb swiftly rising wages and an infla-tion rate of 8.6 per cent, twice the

West European average. It would suspend a 50-year-old agreement under which powerful unions and employers associations quietly negotiated wage policy without government intervention.

Collective bargaining was a pil-lar of the Swedish welfare system, which has eliminated poverty and guaranteed health and schooling for everyone. The Swedish mix of socialism and capitalism became a model for the industrial welfare

The package outlined in parliament by Finance Minister Kiell-Olof Feldt proposed a two-year freeze on wages, prices, local taxes, rents and stock dividends.

Strikes were prohibited for the duration of the plan, through 1991, and strikers would face fines of 5,000 kronor.

To help curb absenteeism and cheating on sick leave, the government said it would stop paying salaries for the first two weeks of illness, and the burden would shift to the employer. Under current rules, the government pays sick leave from the first day.

"To make the wage freeze work, it must be combined with a strike freeze," Carlsson said. "If the Riksdag (parliament) takes the package to pieces, the package is meaningless."

The move would pre-empt a strike by 110,000 municipal employees called for next Wednesday which would indefinitely halt public transportation, public health services and day-car cen-

tres in Sweden's major cities. Banks have been shut for 11 days by a lockout of 62,000 bank employees following a deadlock in wage negotiations and work-

ers' sanctions. The bank conflict has left shoopers strapped for cash, has virtually silenced the stock market and has meant liquidity problems for some companies which may be unable to pay bills and

salaries. The Social Democrats, who govern with a minority, hoped to push the plan through parliament by next Tuesday, but will need to muster support from at least one opposition party on each of its various proposals.

Conservatives and liberals indicated they would go along with a tax freeze, while the communists would support the freeze on prices, rents and stock earnings.

Wave of price rises continues in Argentina

for telephones and electricity more than doubled Thursday. and water rates jumped nearly that much, as the government tried again to match the price of public services with their cost.

Last week, the prices of buses, subways, gas, trains, domestic air flights and other services by staterun companies increased drastically last week for the third time since President Carlos Menem took office in July amid hyperinflation and recession.

The ministry of public works announced that electric rates would rise by 133.5 per cent, effective immediately. The cost of telephone calls went up by an average of 112 per cent. Water, for which only commercial users pay, jumped 85 per cent.

Costs were linked with usage. For example, electricity usage up to 120 kilowatts every two months rose to 5,000 australs per cent, with the metre starting at 960 australs (about 32 cents) and running at 120 australs (4 cents) every 200 metres.

standards of other countries, but so are wages in this nation of 31 million people.

Teachers just negotiated a pay increase to 200,000 australs a month, about \$66 at Thursday's

exchange rate of 2,900 australs to Even middle class residents in the capital think twice about tak-

ing a taxi if a bus is available.
The latest rate hikes were phased in during the past week. Bus fares shot up by 64 per cent to a minimum of 360 australs (about 12 cents) last Saturday, the same day train tickets in-

creased A train ticket from Buenos Aires to the summer resort city of Mar Del Plata, 400 kilometres to is inflation that amounted to the south, that last week cost 4,923 per cent for 1989. As infla-

(about \$3.2), a hike of 174 per

The price of regular gas rose by 38.9 per cent, to 750 australs a The amounts seem tiny by the litre (about 25 cents), or about \$1 a gallon. Diesel oil rose by 119 per cent and kerosene; 125.8 per The day after Menem was

sworn in on July 8, the government devalued the austral by 54 per cent and hiked public service

ment devalued the austral by 34.5 per cent and hiked public service

Later that month, the government declared it no longer would intervene in exchange markets. The rate has been set ever since can't do now that I could just two by supply and demand, and the years ago," said Adriana, a travel austral has slipped in value nearly agent. "I used to go to Villa

The catalyst for the rate bikes

3,500 australs now costs 9,600 tion accelerates, the anstral devalues and public revenues crode. The cost of living rose by 40 per cent in December and 79 per cent

in January. It is projected to rise by at least 70 per cent this month. As recently as several weeks ago, officials at the public works ministry insisted they did not intend to raise public service rates

a third time, and hinted rates might even be lowered. Last weekend, Minister Roberrates by 200 per cent and more. 10 Dromi said electric rates might In mid-December, the governing up by 60 to 70 per cent, "or go up by 60 to 70 per cent, "or

maybe a little more." Argentines whose wages have not kept pace with inflation or the austral's devaluation reacted with resignation.

There are so many things I-Gesell (a beach resort town) nearly every weekend. Now I may go twice all summer. ... Owning a car is unthinkable."

Americans hike consumer debt by

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans took out \$4.91 billion more in consumer credit than they retired in December, pushing total consumer debt up six per cent for the year, the Federal Reserve (Fed) has said.

The Fed said consumer credit in December advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.3 per cent, up from November's revised 7.8 per cent increase. The November gain originally had been reported to be 7.2 per cent.

Peanuts

But consumer debt rose in both months to its highest level since last February when it increased \$5.38 billion. Consumer credit includes all consumer loans ex-

cept mortgages. While credit was up six per cent for the year, it still was a modest increase, said Sandra Shaber, an econmist with the Futures Group here. Debt rose 8.5 per cent in 1988 and 7.5 per cent in 1987. "Nevertheless, it shows that

consumer spending continues to

grow modestly," she said. "It's not collapsing" despite the sluggish economy. The category of debt that in-

cludes credit cards jumped 24.5 per cent in the month that included the bulk of holiday shopping. The hike was 17.5 per cent in November, the last week of which has included holiday shopping in recent years.

Total credit card debt outstanding rose \$4.06 billion at an annual rate in December, com-

pared with \$2.86 billion increase

in November. Shaber said that while unit sales were good during the holiday season, profits for many retailers were off because of the discounts they had to offer to hire purchasers.

Auto loans rose a meager 1.1 per cent to \$259 million at an annual rate, down from 1.9 per cent in November. Auto loans posted a 4.1 per cent increase in October















RJ crew wins the 2nd phase

AMMAN (Petra) — "Sage Al Urdan" (the fatom of Jaraina), a Royal Jordanian (RJ) air craft taking part in the Malay-sian international air race 1990, has won the first place in the second phase of the race by flying the distance between Bahrain and Dhaka is six hours
— two hours about of actually

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OH. WELL

The captain of the streraft, said that the Dight was leard and the crew managed to sur-mount all problems particular-ly with regard to weather con-ditions and strong winds. He expressed confidence that the Jordanian team would win the first place in the remaining physes of the race.

His Majorty King Husselm had seriler called the alecraft crew and congratulated them on their success in the first phase and wished them con-tinued success along the whole

France, Belgium, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United Kingdom, and Switzerland are taking part in the race. Two sireraft for France and the United Kingdom withdrew from the race for either fallure to cope with weather canditions or for technical fallores. A UAB sireraft managed to continue the race after going through tech-nical failures in the first phase of the race.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMER SHERIF

North-South vulnerable. South

LATE-NIGHT LUNACY

NORTH # K432 · A53 **+** 2 EAST

WEST + 865 + AQJ 10 9 7 + KQ 10 8 5 4 4 3 KO 10 9 8 6 4 A 3 9 7 6

West North East
Pass 1 4 4
Pass 6 Pass
Pass Opening lead: Jack of T. :

To play good bridge, you have to be alert. Strange things happen when your concentration wavers. This hand was played in the wee hours after some six hours of rubber bridge. North's jump to six diamonds

was something of a gamble, since declarer might be off two fast tricks in spades with the lead coming through the king. As the cards lay, however, all should have been well;

ACHOSS
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14 Royel tutor
15 Exile lese
16 Configuration
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48 iraqi port 58 Concise 52 Not alert 56 Visionary 60 Modena

THE Daily Crossword by Stuphen Florech

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club with dummy's three. East happily overruffed with the four and returned a heart. West ruffed with the jack to imure a one-

trick set, while at the same time

creating the impression that it was East who held the last two trumps. On the club return, a thoroughly rattled declarer took care to ruff with the acc of diamonds to prevent East overruffing with her supposed seven. That took care of the last entry to the table, so South tried to discard a club on the high heart. West ruffed again and ented with a trump, and declarer was still strand-

ed with a club loser. Down three! It was not the most difficult hand in the world to make. Dociner needed only one simple procaution. Be-fore going about ruffing clubs, ace of diamonds should have been cashed. That would have taken care of East's only trump, and declarer would have been able to ruff two clubs in dummy, using a spade ruff ruff provides the transporation to draw the last trumps, and a third club loser vanishes on the third heart. Declarer still surrenders a chib, but that's the only defensive

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Denmark hammers UAE 5-0

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (R) -- Denmark, who failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals, hammered Italy-bound United Arab Emirates (UAE) 5-0 in their second soccer friendly Thursday. Denmark, missing their foreign-hased stars, took full advantage as the UAE rested several members of their first team and romped to a 4-0 halftime lead. Denmark coasted through the second half, but UAE goalkeeper Adel Annas made several outstanding saves. Their first meeting on Monday was a 1-1 draw.

Seeds advance in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Fifth-seeded Jim Grabb advanced to the quarter-finals of the \$225,000 San Francisco tennis championships Thursday with a three-set victory over a former college teammate. Grabb defeated fellow-American Derrick Rostagno with whom he played at nearby Stanford University, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. In other second-round actioo, seventh-seeded Americao Richey Reneberg made quick work of unseeded compatriot Chris Garner 6-1, 6-3. Reneberg, ranked 24th, outclassed Garner, a qualifier rated 210th, using biting groundstrokes and strong returns to score the 60-minute victory.

Graf faces long break

HEIDELBERG, West Germany (R) - World number one Steffi Graf could be out of tennis for up to two months after injuring her playing hand in a skiing accident. The 20-year-old West German broke the bone of her right thumb when she fell while cross country skiing in the Swiss ski resort of St. Moritz, her press spokesman said Thursday. A medical examination at a West German hospital Thursday ruled out earlier reports that Graf had torn ligaments in her right wrist in Wednesday's fall. Doctors at a Heidelberg clinic will examine Graf again Friday and decide whether to operate on the hand. Graf has already told the organisers of two tournaments in Florida next month, at Boca Raton and key Biscayne, about the injury but has not withdrawn

ATP tour to be sponsored by IBM

PONTE VEDRA (R) - The ATP tour, in its inaugural season as the sanctioning body of the men's professional tennis tour, announced on Thursday that it had reached a sponsorship agreement with IBM corporation. Terms of the deal, under which IBM will become the title sponsor of the ATP tour, were not

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Three bedrooms, lounge + sitting room, two bathrooms + separate toilet, large fully equipped kitchen, telephone, own garden and entrance, Second floor is vacant, as owner lives in Kuwait.

Please contact Mr. Adnan Shabib, Tel. 606053, 685300.

Milan tennis tournament:

Lendl, McEnroe into quarterfinals

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendi and second-seeded John McEnroe each won matches Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Milan indoor tennis tournament.

Lendi, of Czechoslovakia, defeated unseeded Soviet Alexandr Volkov 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 and will play Jim Courier in the quarterfinals. McEnroe breezed past Italian Davis Cup bero Paolo Cane, 6-4,

McEnroe, who had received a warning during a previous match here because he had disputed some calls, was claim during the match against Cane.

"He's always polite when he wins easily," said Cane, who gave Italy a sensational 3-2 Davis Cup victory over Sweden by defeating Mats Wilander in the final singles Monday.

McEnroe, ranking sixth in the world, broke Cane's serve in the tenth game of the first set and twice in the second and had fine volleys and precise longline shots.

compared with Cane's four. applause to Cane, the home darl-

He also served seven aces,

The crowd did not limit its

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H.E. the Ambassador of the

United States in Amman

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Jordan TODAY will be the opening of the first store of

Mister Donut

at King Abdullah Gardens

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ing, but also clapped warmly when McEnroe made good shots.
McEnroe said the first set was tough while the second was no

problem. "He was probably tired following the Davis Cup marathon," McEnroe said.

Jelen, 53rd in the ATP lists and unseeded in the Milan tournament, qualified for the quarterfinals when seventh-seeded Austrian Horst Skoff defaulted in the second set of an earlier

second-round match. Skoff, suffering from stomach pains and a flu, retired while leading 5-4.

In other second-round action unseeded American Pete Sampras and Courier achieved wins in straight sets while Milan Sreiber of Czecnoslovakia upset thirdseeded Aaron Krickstein.

Srejber, who takes Sampras in the quarterfinals, defeated Krickstein 6-2, 6-3.

Krickstein, the third-seed and ranked 7th in the world, said Srejber "broke my serve twice at the beginning of both sets and it's difficult to come back on a guy who serves as well as he does.

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Australia investigating drugs at Commonwealth Games

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) -The head of the senate inquiry into drugs in sport said Friday there was investigation into allegations that an Australian Commonwealth games competitor offered performance-enhancing drugs to teammates.

Sen. John Black said an investigation was underway, but declined to give further details.

"As the head of the senate inquiry into drugs in sport, I was informed as a matter of courtesy but I cannot comment further, Black said. The Brisbane Sun reported Fri-

day that two athletes had reported the competitor for offering to supply performance-eo-hancing steroids just before the games began in Auckland, New Zealand, two weeks ago. The man in question went on to

win a gold medal, the newspaper said in a front-page report. It did not identify the sport. Three weightlifters, two from

Wales and one from India, tested positive for muscle-building steroids at the Auckland Games. Arthur Tunstall, secretarygeneral of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA), said he knew nothing of an Australian gold medalist

pushing steroids at the games. Tunstall, chef de mission of the Australian team, said he had talked with Black in Auckland two days before the games coded, and that Black had not mentioned the report and he has not heard from the senator since.

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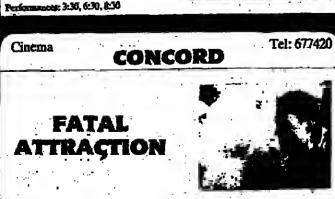
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Namibians approve constitution, prepare for independence in March

WINDHOEK, Namibia (Agencies) — The constituent assembly Friday unanimously adopted a democratic, Western-style constitution in preparation for Namibia's independence from South Africa on March 21.

The constitution guarantees fundamental individual rights and limits a president to two five-year terms, a rarity in a continent where leaders traditionally serve

Its unanimous adoption represents a remarkable spirit of reconciliation among assembly members who were on opposite sides during a 23-year guerrilla war for independence.

The 72-member assembly approved the constitution in a session held on the front steps of the Tintenpalast, the legislative building on a hilltop in Win-

"Today the masses of our people have a constitution which embodies their aspirations to be masters of their own destiny," said Sam Nujoma, who is expected to be the first president and is leader of the dominant Sontb-West Africa People's

Organisation (SWAPO).

Namibia was formerly called South West Africa.

A four-metre-by-six-metre print of the constitution's pream-ble served as a backdrop for the session, which also was attended by Louis Pienaar, the South African administrator of the territory, and Martti Ahtisaari, head of the United Nations contingent monitoring the independence process. South Africa has ruled Nami-

million troops there.

bia since 1915, but agreed to grant independence under a regional peace treaty also signed by

Angola and Cuba. More than 6,000 U.N. civilian and military personnel have been monitoring the process since last April. SWAPO, which began a bush war against South African rule in 1966, won 41 assembly seats in last November's assembly elec-

tions and will form the first gov-Despite a hard-fought campaign and sharp ideological differences, the seven parties represented in the assembly quickly reached agreement on the constitution after beginning work in

The constitution has a declaration of fundamental rights, including freedom of movement, speech, and a free press. It also envisions a multiparty democracy, regular elections, an independent ludiciary and an executive president.

In a another development, Nujoma named a white businessman, Gert Hanekom, to serve as minister of agriculture.

Most of the other posts already had been filled. Nujoma has named whites, businessmen, and opposition party members to his cabinet in a bid reconcile Namibia after the lengthy war and to ease fears of the 75,000 whites,

WORLD NEWS IN BBRIEF

Mitterrand to visit Pakistan, Bangladesh

PARIS (AP) - President Francois Mitterrand will make official

visits to Pakistan and Bangladesh later this month, the presiden-

tial palace announced Friday. Mitterrand will be in Pakistan Feb. 19-21, and Bangladesh Feb. 22-24, the announcement said.

PEKING (AP) - China and the Soviet Union began a second

round of talks Friday aimed at reducing troop levels along their 7,000-kilometre common border. The Soviet embassy said the

talks on cutting military forces and armaments along the border

will continue until Feb. 22. An embassy official said the Soviet delegation is led by G.V. Kireev, chief of the Foreign Ministry

Department for Socialist Countries in Asia, and consists of six

diplomats and six military experts. The two sides agreed to open

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visited Peking in May.

Gorbachev said the frontier should be turned into a "border of

peace" and pledged to withdraw 12 divisions, or 120,000 soldiers.

from the border the end of 1990. The Soviet Union is believed to

have some 600,000 troops along the Chinese border. China,

armed with less-sophisticated equipment, has an estimated 1

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — A leading government official of Europe's most stubborn bastion of Stalinism said Thursday that

Albania welcomes the superpowers' reduced role in Europe but it will remain unaffected by Soviet Bloc democratisation. "We are

continuing along our own road, which has been very different

from that of the Eastern Bloc countries," Deputy Foreign

Minister Socrat Placa told the Associated Press. It is rare that

officials consent to comment spontaneously and on the record to

Although participating in few international forums and restricting

entry by foreigners, Albania has consistently rejected suggestions

BANGKOK - A visit by Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov

to Asian countries starting Sunday is part of an effort by Moscow

to dispel its lingering image in the region as a malevolent bear,

diplomats and academics say. Ryzhkov, the first Soviet premier to

visit non-Communist countries in the region, will tour Thailand,

Australia and Singapore in his week-long trip. "This is a big day

for Moscow. Its their chance to convert a new and so far sceptical

audience to their image as peacemaker." a European diplomat

said. Moscow's claim to have reduced its forces in Vietnam and its

upbeat initiatives to end the war in Cambodia have helped

remove some of the obstacles to a new role for the Soviet Union

in this vast basin, diplomats and Thai officials said. Initiatives

pushed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev since July, 1986,

to enhance Moscow's Pacific role have met a lukewarm response

in the region, mainly because of doubts about Soviet intentions in

Indochina and tensions with Asian giants China and Japan, they

said. Topping the list of issues for Ryzhkov's delegation will be

the conflict in Cambodia, Soviet Ambassador to Thailand Anatoli Valkov said Friday. "The issues of the Cambodian settlement will

be given great attention... the reason is both Thailand and

Australia are playing a significant role in the problem," he told

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Burmese troops have overrun

Three Pagoda Pass, the stronghold of an ethnic minority rebel

group and a major smnggling centre along the Thai-Combodian border, a military spokesman said Friday. Seizure of the border

town followed 10 days of fighting, Burmese Col. Than Tun told

reporters. He said 16 government soldiers were lathed and 42

others wounded in five major clashes leading to the capture Thursday. Twenty rebel bodies were counted, he added. Than

Burmese troops seize rebel base

Ryzhkov starts Asian visit Sunday

Albania rejects E. European reforms

China, Soviets discuss border troops

who control most of the eco-Germany

Independence celebrations next month are expected to attract more than 20 heads of state and thousands of foreign guests to Windhoek, a town which has only a few hotels. The city has a population of

about 120,000 and is by far the largest city in the huge, semi-arid territory that has only 1.3 million Namibia will keep the South

African rand currency in circulation for at least two years after independence, Finance Minister-Designate Otto Herrigel said.

It was the first speech detailing the economie policies of the

In a break with much of its former marxist ideology, Herrigel said SWAPO would encourage free market principles.

Namibia would for a minimum

of three years stay in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), he said.

SACU ensures the free flow of goods and services between its members — South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

"The rand will remain legal tender for at least two years during which period very little influence can be exerted on the free flow of capital between Namibia and South Africa," Herrigel said in a speech to business

leaders Thursday. Herrigel said Namibia would establish its own central bank independent of the South African Reserve Bank, and later issue its own currency.

16 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI (R) - Sixteen more people were killed in sporadic ethnic violence overnight in Karachi, bringing to 64 the death toll in Pakistan's biggest city since Wednesday, police and doctors

said Friday.

An eight-year-old girl shot by gunmen in north Karachi was among the dead, police said Friday.

More than 40 people were killed Wednesday in gunbattles between security forces and antigovernment protesters during a strike called by the powerful Mobajir National Movement

(MQM). The Karaehi-based MQM, which claims to speak for Muslim immigrants from India, called the general strike to protest against what it called repressive policies by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, which denies the charge.

France opposes neutrality of united

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an inter-view published Friday that France does not oppose the reunification of Germany but is against a neutral Germany, which he said would lead to European instability.

"France has recalled that the reunification of the German people is a right," the conservative Paris newspaper Le Figaro quoted Dumas as saying. "It is not going back on that."

The concern of the French government, he said, is the future. To prepare for it, all the problems posed by the present changes in the East must be examined, "notably those involving European security."

France will not discuss either the principle of reunification nor the modalities of this reunificathe foreign minister said. "This debate is a matter for the Germans themselves.

"In the framework of the old order that is coming apart before us, France has its responsibilities in Germany, the same as those of the other three allied powers. This responsibility will be exercised so that the reunification is carried out with the stability and trust of Germany's neighbours."

Asked if France feared the rennification of Germany, a country that has invaded French territory three times in the past 120 years, Dumas quoted President Francois Mitterrand, wbo said last year: "France is not afraid of German reunification." Neutrality is another matter,

"Because that poses the prob-lem of security. French security goes beyond its borders. And it is always in the interest of our country to surround itself with solid allies. A neutral Germany would be the heart of an unstable Europe.

Asked if a new, even more economically powerful Germany on the French border and in the European Community would not change the nature of Franco-German friendship, Dumas said the solid relations built in the 45 veas since the war would not be thrown out of the window be- EAST BERLIN (R) -An explosaid.

"Everything is not going to be rosy for a reunified Germany cither," he said.

Asked about the importance of the American military presence in Europe, Dumas welcomed U.S. troop reductions, but said U.S. military presence in Europe remained desirable.

"No matter what the level of disarmament, the Soviet Union will remain a great military power in Europe," the foreign minister

Japan voices concern over North Korean nuclear facility

TOKYO (R) — Japan on Friday expressed serious concern at a scientist's report that North Korea seems to be expanding a nuclear facility that could enable it to build nuclear weapons.

Professor Toshibumi Sakata of Tokyo's Tokai University said computer analysis of satellite pictures taken more than three years apart showed the North Koreans had put up a large new building at the facility north of Pyongyang and constructed access roads.

"Our findings are probably the first to confirm Western intelligence reports about North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor," Sakata told Renters.

"Once the plant is running, they'll be able to extract plutominm and make nnelear weapons," he said.

The scientist said the Londonbased Jane's Defence Weekly last year reported that this could happen within the next five years. After reports of Sakata's findings appeared in Japanese newspapers Friday, a government spokesman was asked at a regular news conference whether Japan saw a threat in the North Korean facility, located in the region of

the spokesman, deputy chief cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara. "But at the present stage we have no confirmed informa-

"It is impossible to determine whether the facility is for military purposes or peaceful purposes Sakata, who heads the private Tokai University Research and Information Centre, said he had not informed the government before making his findings public.
"I am under no obligation to report my findings to the govern-

"The reporters who covered my group's findings informed the Foreign Ministry and other offices, 1 presume. I've heard nothing from government officials regarding this matter."
Sakata said his team had com-

ment," he said.

pared two sets of photographs of the Nyongbyong site taken by the French spot satellite in 1986 and in 1989.

"The June 1986 photo shows construction was taking place. In the photo taken in September 1989, we were able to see that the installation area had increased substantially in size, including

"The three major political par-

ties took a bold decision to merge

into one, thereby ending the 40-

year-old confrontation," Roh,

who won South Korea's first free

elections for 16 years in 1987 on a

of seeing everything in black and

"Korean politics is now rising to a new, higher level of sophis-

tication on a common bond of

trust and conviction that all

should join hands to shape an era

Roh's previous ruling camp had only 125 members of parlia-

ment, losing an overall majority

to a split opposition that included

Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea's best-known dissident

"Today will go down in history as the national day of humiliation

at the cost of democracy was

of democracy," he said.

Nyongbyong, abont 90 roads and a large building."

kilometres north of Pyongyang.
"We are very concerned," said

Communist North Korea, w Japanese newspapers said Communist North Korea, with Soviet help, had constructed a nuclear plant for research purposes in the Nyongbyong area in the mid-1970s. The original plant's capacity was estimated at 2,000-4,000 kilowatts.

> Nearly 37 years after an armistice ending a bitter war between the two Koreas, Pyongyang bas still not signed a peace treaty either with the anti-Communist South or with the United States. which led a U.N. international force backing Seoul.

Tension remains high along the North-South truce line.

"North Korea is one of those countries and areas which (causes us) very much concern from the point of view of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and facilities,' Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said North Korea, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty in 1985 but had so far refused to guarantee international inspection of its

end to this anti-national, anti-

democratic and unetbical

He called the new alliance a

political coup d'etat against peo-

He said the move was a trend

toward one-party dictatorship and was designed to stop his

group winning provincial elec-tions, the first for 30 years, later

this year and general elections in

the hardcore opposition politi-

cian, Roh has said he will help

drop charges brought against him

over a colleague's illegal visit to

Kim Dae-Jung was charged under tough anti-Communist

laws for not revealing a secret

tip to Pyongyang by party mem-ber Suh Kyung-Wou for talks with President Kim II-Sung.

North Korea.

In an apparent bid to placate

scheme," he said.

six sword-toting Samurai, war-riors, the Rolling Stones met 200 clapping, whistling reporters and photographers Friday ahead of the group's first concerts in Japan. "We're so happy to see so many people come to welcome us," lead singer Mick Jagger said. He said the band would add another date to the nine concerts already planned for Tokyo's "Big Egg," the domed baseball stadium. All nine dates are sold out and ticket scalpers are already reaping a windfall. This is the first time in its 27-year history the rock 'N' roll group will play in Japan. The group had to cancel a apanese concert tour at the last minute in 1973 after authorities -denied Jagger a visa following an arrest for possession of drugs. Guitarist Keith Richards, sporting what he called a knowledge headband around his neck; summed up the good feelings of many of the journalists by spouting a

Treasure of Tsars

BELGRADE (R) - Diamonds necklaces and golden cups and crosses believed to have belonged to the family of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas Romanov II have. been found in a Belgrade bank vault, the newspaper Politika has said. Court officials opened a vanlt belonging to Russian emigre Vera Perhamena-Mihailovie, who died 18 months ago, and found it packed with gems, gold and money, the daily said. Among the items was a golden cross which belonged to Tsar Peter the Great, Russian ruler from 1696 to 1725. "The glitter of gold is blinding, diamonds and precious stones sparkle, golden cups reflect light at different angles," Politika said. The Mihailovic family fled Tsarist Russia at the outbreak of the October Revolution in 1917 and settled in Yugoslavia. Court officials opened the vault at the Yugoslav Investment and Credit Bank because Perbamena-Mihailovic had no heirs. The Yogoslav News Agency Tanjug later cast doubt on the story, quoting court officials as denying the vault had been opened. They said it would be opened officially later this month. But the deputy chief editor of state-controlled Politika, Petar Jankovic, told

ple yearning for full democracy commitment to full democracy, and described Kim Young-Sam said Thursday. "This change in our political and Kim Jong-Pil, a former prime map means the end of... the habit minister, as traitors.

white," he said.

New Seoul alliance takes power

government and former opposition groups said Friday it had formally set up South Korea's new ruling party. Foes im-mediately attacked it as an "antidemocratic camp." The formation of the buge par-

SEOUL (R) - A coalition of

ty, called by media the greatest development in the country's volatile politics, is the result of last month's surprise merger of President Rob Tae-Woo's parliamentary group with two opposition parties led by former presidential candidates Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil.

In a ceremony on a Seoul islet Friday, Roh and the two Kims were chosen as co-leaders of the new Democratic Liberal Party, due to be legally registered on Feb. 15.

The party will hold 216 seats, or more than two-thirds, of the 299-member parliament, enough to push through any constitutional change and upset past opposition dominance.

giant East German chemical

plant Friday, killing at least three

people and injuring 19, the East

German News Agency (ADN)

The blast was in a carbide-

producing oven at the state-run

Buna chemical combine near

Halle, in a scarred old industrial

belt about 250 kilometres south

Intense heat prevented firemen

and rescue workers reaching the

scene of the explosion, ADN

end its guaranteed political

guarantee the long-dominant Communists would allow a multi-

"Everything will depend on whether people are ready to exert

pressure," said Vladimir Tikho-nov, a member of the Congress of

People's Deputies, the national parliament with the final say on

removing the constitutional arti-

cle that guarantees the Commun-

Pravda published news of the

Central Committee meeting on

its front page Thursday but did not publish a text of the platform

outlining the party's steps toward

Thursday blamed the country's

stagnant economy for the pessim-

ism of Soviet people about their

appeared pessimistie, Gor-

bachev's closest adviser Alexan-

der Yakoviev told CBS Evening

News in Moscow: "We've under-estimated the facts of our own

"We don't have housing, we

Asked wby Soviet people

future under political reforms.

Two senior Soviet officials

The Communist Party daily

ists' leading role in society.

But several people on Moscow

reported.

of Berlin.

monopoly.

party democracy.

excluded from the so-called "grand conservative coalition." 3 killed, 19 hurt in E. German blast

anti-pollution and industrial safe-

not immediately known. "There was a terrible blast. Then everything was suddenly black all around us and the air literally burst into flame," ADN quoted a worker at the plant as saying.

The Buna complex is among scores of chemical and brown coal-power plants built early this century and blamed for air and water pollution across East Ger-

Most of the plants lack modern

cause of a new historical development.

sion ripped through part of a
giant East German chemical
not immediately known.

ty measures long standard in the
West.

The Stalinist government in power for .40 years until last November virtually ignored environmental and health bazards from beavy industry to meet production plan targets.

Under popular pressure, the new leadership has promised sweeping modernisation of industry and environmental improvements with West German help.

The government said this week six big chemical plants would be closed by 1991.

China stands alone in rejecting Moscow's reforms

Western reporters in Albania. Albania broke with the Soviet Union in 1961 over Moscow's policy of de-Stalinisation and with LONDON (Agencies) — China has stood alone in rejecting a China in 1978 because of Peking's perceived deviation from Marxist-Leninist tenets. Placa said that Albania followed with landmark decision by the Soviet "intense interest" current European developments and welcomed Union's Communist Party to end any reductions of U.S.-led NATO and Soviet-led Warsaw Pact its monopoly on power and usher forces from the continent. The two sides are making progress at in a multi-party system. talks in Vienna on cutting the blocs' conventional troop strengths.

Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin told a visiting former U.S. congressman in Peking that China was different from the Soviet Union and would not follow the radical political reforms championed by Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev. "He (Jiang) said that China

was not influenced by political changes in the Soviet Union. He remarked that China's Communist Party didn't come to power because of the Soviet Red Army," a U.S. official who attended the meeting said Thursday.

Jiang spoke Wednesday as Gorbachev, despite fierce opposi-tion from the old guard, won overwhelming support from the Communist Party's Central Committee to rewrite article six of the Soviet constitution guaranteeing its monopoly on power.
Western leaders and newspap-

ers applauded Gorbachev's courage to push his reforms through the conservative-dominated Central Committee, but said the road ahead was uncertain.

British Prime Minister Mar-garet Thatcher hailed the move as great decision" but said a lot of work remained to be done. Neil Kinnock, head of the British opposition Labour Party, added now he (Gorbachev) should get unstinting help in overcoming the buge economic problems of the Soviet Union.'

U.S. President George Bush, speaking before the end of the Communist Party meeting in Moscow, appeared to shy away from assessing the implications of

its decisions. "I am not here to anoint or try

to shape the deliberations of the Central Committee proceedings Communist Party's decision to in the Soviet Union," he told civic leaders in San Francisco, although he went on to praise Gorbachev's open-mindedness.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in Moscow for meetings with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Gorbachev, issued a brief statement Wednesday night.
This clearly is a time of great

change in the Soviet Union,"

"They are making efforts to reform both economically and politically and emphasising the introduction of pluralism into their political system, something the U.S. strongly supports."

Alfred Dregger, parliamentary floor leader of Chancellor Hel-mut Kohl's Christian Democrat/ Christian Social Union, said in a statement the Soviet move had been triggered by political re-

forms sweeping Eastern Europe. The Soviet Communist Party, which put up with the reforms under Gorbachev's leadership, had no alternative now but to jump out from the shadows of Lenin and Stalin.

"For now, though, Gorbachev and his reform programme re-main an experiment with uncertain results."

Newspapers in Spain, Britain, Italy and Holland echoed these comments while praising Gorbachev. Commented Spain's newspaper

El Pais: "The battle is not yet won. Two events will be decisive - the forthcoming elections to the Soviets and the republics which could eliminate a large part of the outdated Communist machine and the Communist Par-ty congress which will have to define a new Communist Party."

don't have food — or not enough food — but this is no fault of perestroika. The picture of perestroika is being clouded by the problems of daily life. People are not interested in concepts, in theories - they need bread, milk, housing, transportation.

democracy.

This is understandable," said Yakovlev, a politburo member. Yeltsin said on the same television programme: "If we cannot feed the people right now, if we cannot produce good clothing and if we cannot develop our Soviet citizens interviewed on the streets Thursday predicted a people spiritually, it doesn't mat-

ter what slogaus we shout the people will never respond." Yeltsin, asked whether Gor-

bachev was doing too little too late, replied: "The time for half-Pushkin Square said there was no measures and compromise is over. We are sitting on a critical mass, on the top of a volcano, and within a certain period of time neither Gorbachev nor any other man may be able to lead. The people will decide their destiny, like the people of Eastern

Europe." Yeltsin praised the path taken by the East Germans, Czechoslokas and Bulgarians but boped the people would not follow the lead of Romania, with "the bloodshed, the tragedy.

Asked whether an uprising similar to the one last December in Romania was likely to happen in the Soviet Union, Yeltsin said. "1 wouldn't give you a 100 per cent guarantee because we have a large monster, the KGB (secret service)."

Meanwhile the Soviet Communist Party's chief ideologist said Thursday that Gorbachev's reform programme has saved the Soviet Union from a "cataclysmic explosion."

I think we have avoided a really painful resolution," politburo member Vadim Medvedev said at London's Royal Institute for International Affairs. "We now have the possibility of controlling the outcome... but we must not drag our heels."

Medvedev, considered one of Gorbachev's main allies, arrived from Moscow Wednesday, soon after the vote by the Communist Party's Central Committee to give up its 70-year-old monopoly on power. He heads a sevenmember Soviet delegation invited by British parliamentarians.

Thanks to the fact that we began perestroika in 1985... I think we really have prevented form of our faction.

the possibility of a cataclysmic explosion," Medvedev said through an interpreter. "We have channelled this process into an area of controlled reaction." Medvedev said the Communist

Party will still "struggle for a

leading role... but by democratic Earlier, Medvedev met privately with the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Com-

mittee. Several of the British legislators said afterward they felt unconvinced that Gorbachev could succeed in easing shortages and other economic problems.

"I am uneasy. It seemed somewhat woolly. We were no quite clear exactly how it is going to be achieved," said legislator Bowen Wells, a member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party.
"We wish them well. But, as

any Western politician knows... tolerance anywhere is not always evident in the face of such shor-

A reformist critic of Gorbachev has said a split in the Communist Party may be inevitable despite the Central Committee decision to abandon its monopoly on

Yuri Afanasvev, a leader of a radical group in the Soviet partiament was quoted in the Italian newspaper La Republica Thursday as saying his group was unconvinced by the announcement the Soviet Union would move towards multi-party democracy. He said Gorbachev had to state clearly whether be was with hardliners or reformists in the party.

Asked whether that would mean

a split, he replied: "I see no

alternative." "We shall immediately begin gathering signatures among Communists for the 'democratic plat-

Anthony Quinn undergoes surgery.

NEW YORK (R) - Academy

award-winning actor Ambony Quinn successfully underwent a

three-hour heart bypass operation Thursday and could be out of the hospital in a week, a spokeswoman said. Quinn's doctor said the 74-year-old actor "has a strong heart and is in good health" and should have an uneventful recovery, said spokes-woman Katherine Benvin. Quinn entered New York's Mount Sinai Hospital Wednesday night after suffering chest pains for three months. The actor, who was born in Mexico and came to the United States when he was one year old, won Academy Awards for his role as a Mexican revolutionary in Viva Zapata and for portraying the French painter Paul Gauguin in Lust for Life. He played an Arab in Lawrence of Arabia, an Italian strongman in La Strada and Greeks in the Guns of Navarone and Zorba the Greek. A former amateur boxer, cement mixer and fruit picker, he became an actor at 15, appearing on stage with Mae West, and made his film debut in 1936 in Parôle Stones set to con-

quer Japan TOKYO (R) — Accompanied by

few words of Japanese -- "Genki Desu (I'm fine)."

found in bank vauit

Reuters the paper stood by its

Global weather (major world cities)

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Tun said mopping-up operations were continuing in the area, 270 kilometres southeast of Rangoon and 280 kilometres northwest of Bangkok, the Thai capital. Rebels of the New Mon State Party and the Karen National Union were preparing to celebrate their national days when they lost the strategic site. Foreign reporters in Bangkok had been invited for the festivities and for a news conference at Three Pagoda Pass this weekend.